

Fall 10-1-2009

# COM Outlook Fall 2009

College of Osteopathic Medicine

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# COM Outlook

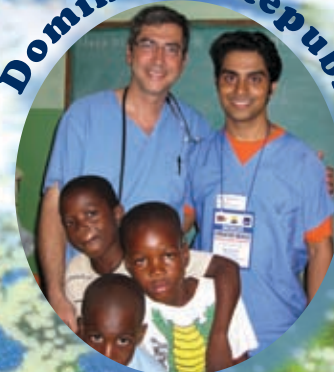
Fall 2009

Volume 10, Number 4

Argentina



Dominican Republic



Haiti



Jamaica



Ecuador



## NSU-COM Goes Global in a Big Way!



# Dean's Message



Because we all get caught up in the daily business of running our personal and professional lives, we sometimes overlook matters of vast importance such as the commitment Nova Southeastern University, the Health Professions Division, and the College of Osteopathic Medicine exhibit in regard to the osteopathic profession. As a result, I want to

share my thoughts and provide *COM Outlook* readers with a summary highlighting a few of the academic and administrative decisions as well as faculty, staff, and student participation that support the osteopathic organizations and profession and enhance medical education.

Below are some examples that illustrate the positive impact our college is having on the profession:

- To the best of our knowledge, we are still the only college of osteopathic medicine that has actually implemented a policy requiring that every full-time D.O. physician faculty member becomes AOA board certified. When we hire faculty members who are osteopathic physicians and are allopathically boarded, they have two years to achieve AOA board certification.

- Compared to other colleges of osteopathic medicine, we have significantly increased the number of available osteopathic residencies and fellowships over the past few years.

- To the best of our knowledge, we graduate more physicians with an M.P.H. degree than other medical schools in the country.

- We have the only preventive medicine residency and forensic pathology fellowship in the osteopathic profession—and the only correctional medicine fellowship in the world.

- The Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education, which is our Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institution (OPTI), is one of the strongest and most dynamic consortiums in the profession.

- Our Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice is one of the largest in the profession, featuring 9 onsite faculty members and 18 predoctoral fellows. In addition, all the full-time faculty members in our Department of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine were or are serving as a chair at a college of osteopathic medicine, and all of them participate and serve on National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) committees. In

fact, the NBOME OPP Committee (parts I through III) has been chaired or vice chaired by an NSU-COM OPP faculty member for the past seven years.

- NSU-COM is the only college of osteopathic medicine that met with the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and would not become part of the Careers in Medicine (CIM) program until the AAMC provided a link to osteopathic residencies and fellowships. When the CIM suggested the link might be removed, NSU-COM again stepped in and made certain the link would remain, thus allowing all osteopathic medical students (OMSs) to benefit from this excellent program while ensuring that osteopathic graduate medical education (OGME) programs—and our partner CEME hospital programs in particular—were accessible to the OMSs.

- NSU-COM has played a major role in the globalization of osteopathic medicine as it is practiced in the United States. We have reinforced the difference between osteopathic medicine and osteopathy—a nonmedical discipline—and have developed or are developing programs in several countries. In addition, approximately 150 NSU-COM students annually participate in an international medical outreach program or rotation.

- We initiate, participate in, and/or publish numerous osteopathic research projects—and have done so for many years.

- Because of our curriculum and osteopathic orientation, we have a significant percentage of our graduates selecting OGME programs as compared to other colleges of osteopathic medicine.

- A substantial number of our students, faculty members, and spouses or significant others attend national and state osteopathic medicine meetings and serve as officers and on committees within these organizations.

I certainly hope our readers find this brief summary interesting and informative. I also want to take a moment to thank the NSU-COM academic and staff team members for the dedication and commitment they demonstrate daily as they contribute to the education of our students. They incorporate osteopathic philosophy and principles into their teaching and actions, thus reinforcing why there is a need for two distinct branches of medicine.

*Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc.*





One of the most exciting times in each academic year occurs when a new class of student doctors enters into the College of Osteopathic Medicine. It's an exhilarating and often frightening experience for the new matriculants as they embark on the orientation process, which concludes with the annual White Coat Ceremony. But it also gives us an opportunity to reflect upon the students who are

moving on to their second, third, and fourth years of the medical education process.

It's always interesting to contemplate the comments the upperclassmen convey to our new student doctors at orientation events and how they unknowingly reflect the attitudes Dr. Morton Terry inculcated in the original mission of the college from his perspective of why we all need to communicate and cooperate with each other as health professionals. In every academic program, you have an untold number of myths that spread like wildfire through a new class with reference to topics such as how easy or difficult a specific course will be and the reputation of specific professors. Through interaction with their upperclassmen, many of these myths can quickly be debunked.

When a new class joins the College of Osteopathic Medicine family, I am very proud to witness the almost immediate buy-in to getting involved in the various professionally focused organizations. As difficult as the first year is for medical students, who are taking a demanding 27 or 28 credit hours of classes, they quickly get involved in various extracurricular activities such as joining student organizations and participating in local health fairs. It's also interesting to see the way students mature very quickly in recognizing that their fellow students are not competitors but team members.

This spirit of camaraderie was further enhanced several years ago when the College of Osteopathic Medicine established its academical societies. By creating 10 societies that assemble the students into groups of about 25 students per society, the class essentially becomes like a small neighborhood residing in a city or town. It also makes it much easier for the students to form study groups and establish friendships. You see a definite willingness among the new students to reach out to their peers and appreciate the academic structure we've created here at the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Each year, I am always pleased to see the large number of faculty members and administrators that participate in the White Coat Ceremony. At the beginning of the ceremony, I express my heartfelt feelings by saying, "With all due respect to the parents, loved ones,

and significant others in attendance, please allow me to accept your children and loved ones as members of our family." I think the family members in the audience recognize these are not just hollow words and understand they are spoken from the heart. So when they look around and see all the faculty members and administrators who are there to support the incoming class, they feel a sense of comfort and relief.

There's no question that both the academic and time pressures facing new students entering the osteopathic program are significant no matter how well armed they are intellectually and academically. The experience can be quite daunting, which is why I think it's important for them to feel the caring and warmth of the people who are going to be dealing with them as students.

At many educational institutions, especially those in the health care arena, you will often find officials who welcome the incoming students by saying, "Look to the left of you and look to the right of you; you'll be lucky if you're all walking across the stage at graduation time." I always take the opposite approach and say, "Look to the right of you and look to the left of you; most likely, more than 95 percent of you will be walking across the graduation stage." Our academic completion rate is very high because we have implemented a network of student-based initiatives to ensure success. This approach is exemplified by the college's Office of Student and Administrative Services, which is overseen by Dr. Bart Whitehead and his dedicated staff, who genuinely care about the students' well being.

Of course, producing caring and competent physicians are our major goals, which is why we have placed in our curriculum what I would call the common-sense doctrines that should be available to all health care practitioners. The relationships students have with their future patients will be affected by many of the health care changes that will be occurring in the very near future. What we're trying to do with our student doctors is provide them with real-world activities of medicine where they learn to understand the nature of their responsibilities, are prepared to comprehend basic business principles and regulatory issues, and know how to effectively communicate with their future patients.

These are the types of things we touch on during the four years the students spend with us, which gives them a foot up on the professional ladder by the time they graduate. And that's a fact all of us involved with the College of Osteopathic Medicine can be very proud of.

*Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.*



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## College of Osteopathic Medicine

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### **CBAP Takes Leadership Role in Preparing NSU for H1N1**

During the past summer, the world was awakened to the reality of a Phase 6 Pandemic Outbreak as determined by the World Health Organization. The situation is no longer an emergency preparedness exercise: It is now a public health emergency that NSU is actively responding to on a range of levels.



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### **I-Stan Simulator Provides Progressive Medical Education**

Last year, NSU-COM purchased a \$65,000 METI I-Stan simulator to provide its students with yet another educational tool to hone their arsenal of clinical skills. Because the wireless and tetherless I-Stan is model-driven, just about anything that can happen to a real patient can be simulated and tailored.



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### **International Selectives Expand Students' Worldview**

Providing students with the most comprehensive educational opportunities possible has been a longstanding NSU-COM goal. Thanks to the introduction of numerous international medical outreach experiences, such as selectives, a dynamic dimension has been added to the students' learning process.



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### **Humor, Humanitarianism on Display in Ecuador**

In April, a dedicated group of volunteers traveled to Ecuador to provide a range of health care services to a decidedly underserved population. The experiences these medical and community volunteers shared spanned the gamut from inspirational and heartwarming to incredibly humorous (and embarrassing!).



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### **Students Appreciate Impactful Hospital Ship Experience**

Four recent NSU-COM graduates enjoyed the experience of a lifetime in April when they participated in a one-month international humanitarian mission aboard the USNS Comfort (T-AH20) hospital ship during the concluding months of their NSU-COM education.



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### **Journey to Jamaica Saves Lives, Impresses Students**

Each time a medical practitioner averts a potentially catastrophic patient outcome, the feeling of accomplishment is almost palpable. Such was the case during the college's annual medical outreach expedition to Jamaica in June, which featured a dedicated mix of students, faculty members, and community volunteers.

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### Notice of Accreditation/Nondiscrimination

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any age, race, color, sexual orientation, pregnancy status, religion or creed, nondisqualifying disability, and national or ethnic origin. Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, 30033-4097; telephone number: 404-679-4501) to award associate's, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.



## In Memoriam: Dr. Daniel Finkelstein and Anita Melnick



On June 26, Daniel Finkelstein, D.O., who was a professor emeritus of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, passed away. During his productive NSU-COM career, Dr. Finkelstein served as an inaugural board member of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (the forerunner to NSU-COM) and was the inaugural chairman of the college's Department of Radiology. Other administrative titles he held included vice president for finance of Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, special assistant to the dean, and associate dean for administration. "Danny was active throughout the history of our institution, from its inception on," said Arnold Melnick, D.O., M.Sc., FACOP, who served as founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine and vice chancellor and provost of NSU's Health Professions Division. "Even after his retirement, he was a valuable asset, always taking a paternal interest in the college."



On June 28, Anita Melnick, wife of Dr. Arnold Melnick, passed away. Mrs. Melnick, who was one of the developers of the college's initial bookstore in the early 1980s along with Geraldine Terry, often acted as a confidant to many medical students. In addition, she was an instrumental part of the team that established the inaugural Bal Fantastique fundraiser. To honor her

passing and commemorate her contributions to NSU-COM, the Health Professions Division held a Celebration of Life event in the Chancellor's Dining Room on July 28.



During the weekend of August 15, the NSU-COM Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education held its annual summer board of directors' meeting/DME thank-you event aboard the Norwegian Sky cruise ship. The dual event serves as an opportunity for DMEs (directors

of medical education), program directors, residency support personnel, and NSU-COM faculty members to mingle in a fun-filled atmosphere. During the shipboard gathering, participants had the opportunity to attend an insightful faculty development seminar presented by Janet Hamstra, Ed.D., and Daniel Shaw, Ph.D., M.Ed., focusing on the utilization of electronic medical records in resident training.

## Geriatric Collaboration Wins Prestigious National Award



Gail Gannotta (right), program director of the ADRC's Senior Intervention and Education Program, and Dr. Naushira Pandya proudly showcase their national Innovations Award.

NSU-COM's commitment to partner with local community service agencies to provide vital health care services and enhance its students' education was recognized with an Innovation Award in July during the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging 34th Annual Conference, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The award was presented

to the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Broward County's Senior Intervention and Education Program for outstanding exemplification of both innovation and sound management practices that can be emulated by the aging services network. Through its collaboration with the ADRC's Senior Intervention and Education Program, NSU-COM students have been able to visit isolated seniors' homes in order to assess the elders' living environments and resources, as well as evaluate their ability to function within their own homes. This alliance between Gail Gannotta of the ADRC and Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, who serves as associate professor and chair of NSU-COM's Department of Geriatrics, has proven to be extremely beneficial because it allows future physicians the opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge regarding the status of vulnerable elders outside the customary medical area.

## COMmunications

■ Based on the latest rankings released in *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Colleges 2010 issue, **NSU-COM** ranked No. 22 nationally of all medical schools in regard to graduating the most primary care residents (50 percent). The college also placed No. 25 nationally for private medical schools that provide some sort of financial aid to their students (89 percent).

■ **Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.**, chancellor of NSU's Health Professions Division, was honored in June by the Broward County Pharmacists Association for 50 years of distinguished service to the profession.

■ In October, the **Broward County Sheriff's Office** received the Facility of the Year Award from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC). This prestigious award is presented each year to only one facility or system selected from among the 500 jails, prisons, and juvenile confinement facilities that participate in NCCHC's nationwide accreditation program. The **Broward County Jails** serve as a rural selective site for fourth-year NSU-COM students.

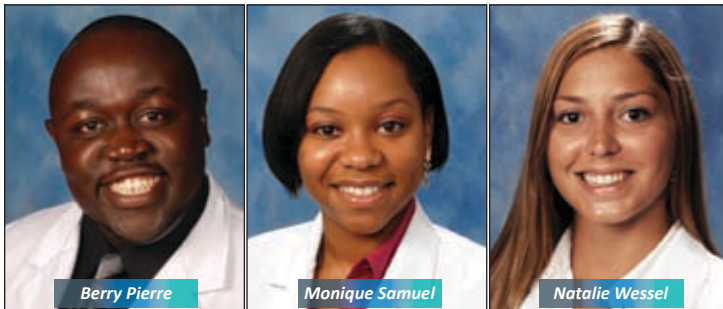
■ OMS-IV **Jessica Hilst** was featured in a *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* article titled "Most College Grads Are Women."

## Students Receive American Osteopathic Foundation Recognition

Three students—OMS-III Berry Pierre, OMS-II Monique Samuel, and OMS-II Natalie Wessel—were awarded Welch Scholars Grants from the American Osteopathic Foundation (AOF) Board of Directors. The grants, which are accompanied by \$2,000 cash awards, are presented annually to students who were selected by their college and approved by the American Osteopathic Foundation. Students are chosen based on their financial need, academic achievement, participation in extracurricular activities, and commitment to osteopathic medicine.

Wessel was a double AOF awardee as she also received the Russell C. McCaughan, D.O., Education Scholarship, which comes with a \$400 prize and is awarded to one osteopathic medical student from each AOA-approved college/school of osteopathic medicine. Recipients of this scholarship must be committed to osteopathic medicine, excel academically, and demonstrate financial need to cover the cost of their osteopathic education.

Leanne Sitler, wife of class of 2009 graduate Christopher Sitler, D.O., was awarded the Donna Jones Moritsugu Award, which is presented to the spouse of a graduating student who exemplifies the role of a professional's partner in being an individual in his or her own right while being supportive of mate, family, and the osteopathic profession.



## Altruistic Trio Wins Tafi Atome Awards



In August, three altruistic individuals—Jon Dodds, Ph.D., M.P.H., Kenneth Johnson, D.O., FACOOG, and Marie Morris—were honored with Tafi Humanitarian Awards for their commitments to and contributions toward the development of a health infrastructure in the village of Tafi Atome, Ghana. The Tafi Atome project is the brainchild of Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M., director of the college's M.P.H. Program. Over the years, Dr. Blavo has helped implement life-saving immunization programs in the indigent area and assisted with the construction of a self-sustaining clinic that can provide both health care and health care education to the community.

## Media Training Workshop Benefits Students and Residents



Pictured (front row from left) are Ken Ma, Julie Spechler, and Dr. Robert Hasty with the participating students, interns, and residents at the media training workshop at Palmetto General Hospital.

At some point during their careers, most physicians interact with the media to discuss issues such as disease and new trends in medicine, to announce new medical procedures, or to advocate for improvements in health care. To help prepare the next generation of physicians, NSU-COM

and NSU's Office of Public Affairs joined forces to pilot a media training workshop for a mix of students, interns, and residents at Palmetto General Hospital in Hialeah on August 13.

The workshop, which was conducted by Office of Public Affairs staff Ken Ma and Julie Spechler, as well as Scott Colton, NSU-COM director of medical communications, gave the participants insight into how to interact with the media to foster greater professional communications. "It is imperative for physicians to have media training," said Ken Ma, associate director of public affairs. "In an age of the 24-hour news cycle, public perception and the court of public opinion can have a positive or negative impact on someone's career."

"I am thrilled that we are educating the physicians of tomorrow about media training," said Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI, assistant professor of internal medicine and program director of the NSU-COM/Palmetto General Hospital Internal Medicine Residency. "This important education will enhance the ability of these future physicians to educate, protect, and advocate for the patients they care for by using the powerful tools the media offers."

## NSU Tops Rankings for Doctoral Degrees Awarded to African Americans, Hispanics

NSU ranks first in the nation in the number of doctoral degrees awarded to African Americans and Hispanics, according to *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* magazine's annual Top 100 Graduate Degree Producers issue. NSU also ranks third in awarding master's degrees to Hispanics and fifth in awarding master's degrees to African Americans. The publication used data collected from the U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System program to compile the rankings, which were based on 2008 data that listed NSU as awarding 289 doctoral degrees to African Americans, 81 doctoral degrees to Hispanics, 861 master's degrees to African Americans, and 708 master's degrees to Hispanics from July 2007 to June 2008.



## AHCA Secretary Holly Benson Gets Crash Course in NSU Innovation



Pictured (clockwise from left) are Edward Packer, D.O., Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D., M.A., James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., Neal Stief, Elaine Wallace, D.O., M.Sc., Jennie Lou, M.D., M.Sc., Holly Benson, J.D., and Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc.

Holly Benson, J.D., who was appointed secretary of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) by Governor Charlie Crist in 2008, visited NSU-COM on August 19 to tour the university campus and view presentations about some of the college's innovative work in the areas of geriatrics, public health, biomedical informatics, electronic medical records, HIV/AIDS behavioral research, and international/rural outreach opportunities. AHCA is charged with working for better health care for all Floridians, finding more affordable insurance for uninsured Floridians, and reducing the regulatory burden placed on health care providers.

## CEME News

■ The **NSU-COM/Palmetto General Hospital Cardiology Fellowship**, which will commence in July 2010, was approved by the American Osteopathic Association for six positions (two per year) and represents the first osteopathic internal medicine subspecialty fellowship in Southeast Florida. **Raul Alonso, M.D.**, has been appointed as the fellowship's founding program director.

■ The **Palm Beach Centre for Graduate Medical Education (PBCGME)**, a multi-facility academic medical center currently accredited for 96 postgraduate training positions in 8 different programs, is accepting applications for its new residency programs in internal medicine/pediatrics (based out of Palms West Hospital) and emergency medicine (based out of St. Lucie Medical Center). For more information, please call (561) 863-3910 or email [joanne.guccio@hcahealthcare.com](mailto:joanne.guccio@hcahealthcare.com).

■ **St. Vincent's Medical Center** in Jacksonville, Florida, had one of its recent graduates—**Chris Scuderi, D.O.**—receive two prestigious awards:

- *Florida Resident Teacher of the Year*, which was presented at the Florida Society ACOFP Annual Convention in Orlando

- *Merck Outstanding Resident of the Year*, which will be presented to Dr. Scuderi at the AOA Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar being held in New Orleans, Louisiana, in November

## College of Osteopathic Medicine Hosts BGMC Residents' Retreat



Pictured to the left of the poster are Drs. Glenn Singer, Michelle Duhaney, Angela Combs, Luzan Phillpotts, Tracy Favreau, Hina Siddiqui, and Patrick Kenney. Featured to the right of the poster are Drs. Gary Hill, Paula Anderson-Worts, and Joel Rush, James Thaw, and Drs. Anthony J. Silvagni, Joseph De Gaetano, Pamela Sutton, Stanley Skopit, Natasha Bray, and Eustorgio Lopez.

On May 8-9, various NSU-COM faculty members, residents, and residency program directors from Broward General Medical Center (BGMC) convened at NSU to participate in the inaugural Resident and Program Director Strategic Retreat, which was led by Gary Hill D.O., FACOI, assistant professor of internal medicine and director of medical education for BGMC. Curriculum design was provided by Marti Echols, Ph.D., M.Ed., assistant professor of internal medicine and assistant dean of medical education, while David Gensure, director of continuing education, served as the retreat's facilitator.

An extensive agenda was covered, which prepared the participants to implement new ideas and effectively confront existing challenges. The attendees were given a 20-page questionnaire prior to coming to the retreat and asked to take a self-assessment analysis. Dr. Hill felt the retreat allowed the attendees to review the college's mission and vision for the future and set actionable goals and priorities that lay the pathway to success for the new fiscal year. Dr. Hill stated that, "Accountability for our success depends on each of us responsible for carrying out program objectives set forth by the specific residency program curriculum and the Department of Graduate Medical Education."



The Pediatrics Club recruited 30 volunteers from the class of 2012 to assist with NSU's Back to School physicals event, which took place throughout August at the Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center.

Participating students included (from left) Karoline Korah, Katie Puckett, Nonna Kozlenko, Angela Fickel, Lindsey Newman, Zach Wichner, George McKean, and Miglena Dzhupanova.



## Hospital Procedures Workshops Serve as Vital Training Tools

By Janet Hamstra, Ed.D.

Medical Education Specialist, Asst. Professor of Internal Medicine



Drs. Mark Sandhouse and Andrea Sciberras assist the residents during the training exercise.

**P**reparation in procedural skills is becoming an increasingly important issue in the training of residents. Today's greater level of accountability, increased concerns for patient safety, and the implementation of competency-based resident education have prompted increased scrutiny in all areas of resident training. As a result, the traditional "see one, do one, teach one" model of teaching medical procedures is no longer sufficient for assuring competence and leaves considerable room for passing on inaccurate information.

In an effort to help residency programs prepare their residents to perform emergency hospital procedures, NSU-COM faculty members developed the Emergent Hospital Procedures Workshop and conducted the first training sessions on Saturdays throughout June and July. All incoming residents and interns from Palmetto General Hospital and Mount Sinai Medical Center attended these half-day sessions, which were held in the Anesthesiology Assistant Lab. During their time on the NSU campus, the participants received training in sterile procedures, chest-tube insertion, orotracheal intubation, and central venous catheterization. The sessions also included a pre-test, viewing of a video demonstration, and reading an accompanying article on each procedure, which was followed by small-group instruction led by NSU-COM faculty members during which each resident performed the procedure on a simulated patient manikin. The residents rotated through each of the procedure stations and concluded their session with a post-test.

These beneficial workshops were developed and conducted by NSU-COM faculty members Janet Hamstra, Ed.D., Mark Sandhouse, D.O., Andrea Sciberras, D.O., Krishnamurti Munoz, D.O., and David Thomas, M.D., J.D. We are grateful to the NSU Anesthesiology Assistant Program for the use of its simulators and facilities. In the coming months, we plan to continue to offer the Emergent Hospital Procedures Workshop and to develop additional procedures workshops to meet the procedure training needs of various residency programs.

## Busy Agenda for AHEC Program



NSU-COM's Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program completed the second year of the initial two-year pilot period of its important Tobacco Training and Cessation Program. By the end of the first year of the new fiscal cycle, the AHEC tobacco program will have trained nearly 10,000 medical, nursing, pharmacy, and other health professions students and community-based practitioners. In addition, AHEC will have incorporated tobacco training into the curricula of 24 medical, dental, nursing, and other health professions training programs at 10 colleges and universities located in 12 South and Central Florida counties.

**A**s part of AHEC's ongoing efforts to expand medical, dental, and other health services to medically needy populations, it has established a major partnership with the Palms West Hospital Pediatrics Residency Program and Florida Community Health Centers, Inc. to bring pediatric medical residents into federally qualified community health centers in the rural communities of Pahokee, Indiantown, Okeechobee, Clewiston, and Fort Pierce. This initiative enhances access to pediatric services in these underserved communities while greatly facilitating the future recruitment of pediatricians at these sites.

**T**he nationally recognized AHEC Annual Summer Health Career Camps featured two sessions comprising 100 high school student participants from a pool of approximately 250 applicants from over 40 schools located throughout AHEC's 19-county service area. To date, over 1,800 students have participated in these camps.

**I**n collaboration with the NSU Division of Clinical Operations, the NSU Pharmacy Clinic, and the NSU Center for Psychological Studies, AHEC has initiated the provision of on-campus tobacco cessation group classes for NSU faculty, staff, and students. These on-campus cessation classes are currently being offered to support the university's recently instituted Healthy Sharks Initiative, which is aimed at promoting significant reductions in tobacco use within the NSU community.

**T**hrough a new partnership between the AHEC Program, the NSU College of Dental Medicine, Community Health of South Dade, Inc., and the Florida Keys AHEC, NSU dental students will be providing dental care services while training at a federally qualified health center in the Florida Keys. Through this AHEC service/learning experience, NSU dental students will also be exposed to the special needs, challenges, opportunities, and rewards of practicing in an underserved community.

**A**HEC will be working with NSU-COM and numerous community colleges throughout South and Central Florida to continue to bring tobacco prevention education into public schools. Since its inception in 2001, this highly successful initiative has expanded across the region. By the end of 2009, the program will have reached nearly 200,000 elementary, middle, and high school children from 140 schools in 19 counties.

## Expanded Residency/Fellowship Opportunities Loom on the Horizon

**N**NSU-COM has been aggressively working with its many local hospital and health care partners across South Florida to expand its number of affiliated residency and fellowship programs throughout the region. It has been widely reported that South Florida is beginning to experience a physician shortage that will negatively impact the needs of our local population.

Recognizing this shortage and realizing that most physicians will end up practicing geographically close to the residencies and fellowships they attend, NSU-COM has stepped up its efforts to work with its local health care partners to create postgraduate programs that will help offset this physician shortage.

Over the past two years, NSU-COM has partnered with the following health care entities to create new postgraduate training opportunities that are in varying stages of development. They are:

### **Larkin Community Hospital**

*Family Medicine Residency*

*Family Medicine/Neuromuscular Medicine Residency*

*Psychiatry Residency*

### **Palmetto General Hospital**

*Internal Medicine Residency*

*Cardiology Fellowship*

### **Broward County Medical Examiner's Office**

*Forensic Pathology Fellowship*

### **Broward Health**

*Internal Medicine Residency*

*Palliative Care Fellowship*

### **Columbia Hospital West Palm Beach**

*Internal Medicine Residency*

*Internal Medicine/Pediatrics Residency*

### **Florida Department of Corrections**

*Correctional Medicine Fellowship*

*Psychiatry Residency*

In addition to the new residencies and fellowships listed above, NSU-COM is affiliated with 40 other such programs in varying disciplines. These programs are housed at partner institutions such as Mount Sinai Medical Center, Miami Children's Hospital, the Palm Beach County Health Department, Palms West Hospital, and the West Palm Beach Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

## Chinese Physicians Gain Exposure to Osteopathic Medicine



*Pictured (back row from left) are: Robert Oller, D.O.; James Howell, M.D., M.P.H.; Jennie Lou, M.D., M.Sc.; Susan Ledbetter, D.O.; Dr. Wu Gang of West China Hospital at Sichuan University; Dr. Yang Fubing of Attached Hospital of Luzhou Medical College; Dr. Zhao Dechun of Suining City Central Hospital; Dr. Zhang Mei of Sichuan Provincial Center of General Practice Education; and Dr. Li Ying of Sichuan Provincial People's Hospital. Seated (from left) are: Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.; A. Alvin Greber, D.O.; Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc.; Dr. Wang Xiaolei of Chengdu City No. 3 People's Hospital; and Marti Echols, Ph.D., M.Ed.*

**I**n August, the college coordinated a three-day training event for six Chinese physicians/educators in the area of primary care physician training. In an effort to enhance primary care medicine and patient care in China and meet the challenge of large differences in quality and access to health care, the Chinese Central Government established an edict requiring there be one family medicine clinic for every 50,000 people by 2010. Organized by the American Osteopathic Foundation in partnership with Heart to Heart International, the Chinese physician delegation visited the United States from August 13 to 25 to learn from American osteopathic physicians what they know best—how to provide enhanced health care to more people using limited resources. NSU-COM was selected as one of the four U.S. training sites to showcase the curriculum, the modalities, and the residency programs in family physician training.

"The Chinese physician delegates were truly inspired and encouraged by what they observed here at NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine," said Jennie Lou, M.D., M.Sc., professor of public health and internal medicine and director of the Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics program, who also served as local coordinator of the visit. "This is such a great opportunity to make a difference in shaping the health care system in the largest country in the world."





# Shining a Spotlight on Research-Related Activities

**D**ue to the increasing amount of research-related activity our students and faculty members are involved in on a regular basis, a new section was established effective with the summer 2009 issue of *COM Outlook* to promote these praiseworthy achievements. This section provides coverage on a diverse array of activities that includes

- announcement of published articles/books and poster/conference presentations
- clinical research projects
- grant awardees
- research projects currently in development

To ensure that all NSU-COM research activities are published in *COM Outlook*, please email related materials to Scott Colton, director of medical communications, at [scottc@nova.edu](mailto:scottc@nova.edu).

## Drs. Levy, Pandya Become Fulbright Specialist Scholars

*Drs. Naushira Pandya and Leonard Levy: Fulbright specialist scholars.*



**L**eonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., professor and associate dean of education, planning, and research, and **Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD**, associate professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, will be traveling to Slovakia in September to serve as Fulbright specialist scholars at Comenius University School of Medicine in Bratislava. Drs. Levy and Pandya, who are the first NSU-COM faculty members to be named Fulbright specialist scholars, will participate in developing collaborative relationships with the medical school in Bratislava and the medical, geriatric, public health, and biomedical informatics programs at NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"This is truly an honor not only for these individuals but for the College of Osteopathic Medicine and for Nova Southeastern University," said Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., professor of family medicine/public health and project director of the Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness. "As Slovak Honorary Consul for Florida, I am absolutely thrilled because this experience will provide for the future many rich opportunities for faculty and student exchanges, collaborative research, and above all, academic program partnerships."

Drs. Levy and Pandya are two of over 400 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad this year through the Fulbright Specialists Program, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural

Affairs. The Fulbright Specialists Program, created in 2000 to complement the traditional Fulbright Scholar Program, provides short-term academic opportunities to prominent U.S. faculty members and professionals to support curricular and faculty development and institutional planning at post-secondary academic institutions around the world.

In addition to becoming a Fulbright specialist scholar, Dr. Pandya presented lectures on "Tube Feeding for Advanced Alzheimer's Patients" and "Diabetes Management in Geriatric Patients" for the Mississippi Osteopathic Medical Association and completed a book chapter on "Common Medical Conditions in Long-Term Care" for the publication titled *Pocket Guide to Long-Term Care*. She also was quoted in a *Miami Herald* article titled "Elderly Abuse Trial: Care or Deadly Neglect?"

## CEME Announces Intern/Resident Research Poster Competition

**T**o recognize the research efforts of those involved with NSU-COM's Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education (CEME), the organization has established its inaugural **Intern/Resident Scientific Research Poster Competition**, which will be held during the college's annual residency fair on November 20. "We are proud to announce the development of this new competition as we look to recognize the great research efforts that are already occurring in our affiliated residency programs," said Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S.Ed, FAAFP, FACOFP, who serves as associate professor of family medicine and assistant dean of clinical curriculum and graduate medical education. Cash prizes of \$500, \$250, and \$100 will be awarded to those who place first, second, and third in two separate entrance categories—experimental research and case presentation.

- According to new statistics released from NSU's Office of Grants and Contracts, **NSU-COM ranks second** behind the Oceanographic Center in terms of total sponsored funding for the 2009 fiscal year. NSU-COM accounted for 19 percent (just over \$8.9 million) of the university's sponsored funding. NSU-COM ranked first in teaching/training funding (\$3.05 million), second in community service funding (\$2.55 million), and second in research funding (\$3.3 million).



## Faculty Fragments

**Arthur Berman, D.O., FAAIM**, clinical instructor of internal medicine, had his coauthored research project entitled "Phase 2 Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study of Nitazoxanide Plus Peginterferon and Ribavirin in HCV Genotype 1 Naïve Patients: Interim Analysis Shows Increase in EVR" presented at the European Association for the Study of the Liver International Liver Congress held last April in Copenhagen, Denmark.



**Pablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H., FAAFP**, associate professor of family medicine/public health and assistant dean of clinical operations and graduate education, coauthored an article titled "A Single-Subject Investigation of the Effects of Various Biofeedback-Assisted Breathing Patterns on Heart Rate Variability: A Practitioner's Approach" that will be published in an upcoming issue of *Biofeedback*.



**Jessica De Leon, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of public health and research associate at the college's Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness, was an invited attendee to the Veterans Health Administration Comprehensive Management Program Evaluation and Research Conference, held July 21-22 in Washington, D.C. This conference brought together VA and non-VA researchers from around the nation who are working in the field of disaster and emergency management. During the symposium, Dr. De Leon facilitated a working group on behavioral and mental health issues surrounding disasters and emergencies.



**M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D., M.A.**, professor of public health/preventive medicine and director of the Behavioral Health Promotion Program (BHPP), served as first author of an article titled "Drug Use and Hispanic Men Who Have Sex with Men in South Florida: Implications for Intervention Development" that was published in *AIDS Education and Prevention*. Dr. Fernandez coauthored the article with BHPP colleagues **G. Stephen Bowen, M.D., M.P.H.**, and **Robin Jacobs, Ph.D.**



**Jay Fleisher, Ph.D.**, associate professor of public health, was selected to present his research abstract titled "BEACHES Study: Health Effects and Exposures from Nonpoint Source Microbial Contaminants in Subtropical Recreational Marine Waters" during the 137th APHA Annual Meeting, which will be held November 7-11 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**John Halpern, D.O.**, clinical assistant professor of family medicine, recently coauthored articles on leishmaniasis and pediatric gastrointestinal bleeding that appeared on the emedicine Web site. He also was reappointed to the Broward Regional Medical Services Council by Broward County Mayor Stacy Ritter.



**Robin Jacobs, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of preventive medicine in the Behavioral Health Promotion Program, served as first author of an article titled "HIV-Related Stigma in Midlife and Older Women" that was published in *Social Work in Health Care*. She also coauthored several other articles, including "Predictors of the Importance of Spiritual and Religious Beliefs Among University Students" that appeared in the *Journal of Religion & Spirituality in Social Work*, "Perceptions of Intimate Partner Violence, Age, and Self-Enhancement Bias," which was published in the *Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect*, and "Drug Use and Hispanic Men Who Have Sex with Men in South Florida: Implications for Intervention Development," which appeared in *AIDS Education and Prevention*. In addition, she was named statistical analyst for a study titled "Psychosocial Needs of HIV+ Young Men Who Have Sex with Men: A Multi-Center Study of the Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions" that is sponsored by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development with co-funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute of Mental Health.



**Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc.**, professor of internal medicine/public health and director of the biomedical informatics program, coauthored an article titled "The Issue Is: Occupational Therapy in the Age of the Human Genome: Occupational Therapists' Role in Genetics Research and its Impact on Clinical Practice" that was published in the July/August issue of the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*.



**Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.Ed., M.B.A.**, professor and chair of the Department of Psychiatry, made two presentations at the International Society for Psychoneuroendocrinology August meeting in San Francisco on the topics "Relation of TNF-Alpha to Symptoms of Anxiety and Depression" and "Anti-Inflammatory Effects Mediate the Relationship Between Physical Activity and Mood in Older Adults." He also coauthored a chapter titled "Aging, Cognition, and Technology" in the book *Successful Cognitive and Emotional Aging*.

**Robert Raspa, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of family medicine, presented a lecture on "Hypertension Therapy" at the American Academy of Family Physicians Scientific Assembly in Boston, Massachusetts, on October 13.

**Robert Rosenstein, M.D., FACC**, clinical assistant professor of internal medicine, had his response letter published about the article "Rosuvastatin, C-Reactive Protein, LDL Cholesterol, and the JUPITER Trial" in the July 4 issue of *TheLancet.com*. He also had his response letter about the article "Greater Clinical Benefit of More Intensive Oral Antiplatelet Therapy



with Prasugrel in Patients with Diabetes Mellitus in the Trial to Assess Improvement in Therapeutic Outcomes by Optimizing Platelet Inhibition With Prasugrel: Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction 38" published in *Circulation*—the journal of the American Heart Association.

**Paul Schacknow, M.D., Ph.D.**, clinical associate professor of surgery, served as a senior editor on the *The Glaucoma Book: A Practical Evidence-Based Approach*, which will be published by Springer Science+Business Media in the first quarter of 2010. The textbook focuses on diagnosis and management of glaucoma patients, including advances in medical and surgical therapies, and contains 127 manuscripts written by international leaders in the field of ophthalmology.



**David Thomas, M.D., J.D.**, professor of surgery and public health and chair of the Department of Surgery and the Division of Correctional Medicine, composed two chapters that will be published in *Managing Special Populations in Corrections, Volume 2*.

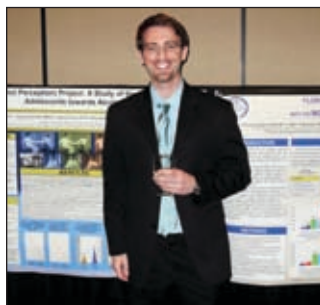
## Student News



Joshua "Chuck" Green

**OMS-IV Joshua "Chuck" Green**, who is a member of Broward Mensa, won the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians (ACOEP) 2009 Case Competition, which was initiated in 1997 to promote research among students interested in emergency medicine and is open to all third- and fourth-year osteopathic medical students in the United States. Green's award-

winning paper titled "Hyperosmolar Hyperglycemic State in the Emergency Room" was published in the July 2009 edition of the ACOEP's *The Pulse*. He also was invited to present his project at the ACOEP Fall Scientific Assembly held September 29 through October 3 in Boston, Massachusetts.



**OMS-III Marlow Hernandez** presented two coauthored research projects at the 2009 Florida Public Health/Southern Health Association Joint Annual Educational Meeting held in August in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. The first, entitled "Florida Physician Familiarity with the Most Common Misdiagnoses,"

was coauthored by Hernandez along with **Natasha Bray, D.O., OMS-III Yana Gofman, Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D., Robert Hasty, D.O., and OMS-III Chad McDonald**. The second, entitled "The AP (Alcohol Perception Project): A Study of the Perceptions of Adolescents Towards Alcohol," was coauthored by Hernandez along with **OMS-III Kelli Burton, OMS-III Shawna DeGraff, Jon Dodds, Ph.D., Alina Perez, J.D., M.P.H., and Gabriel Suci, Ph.D.**

## FSACOF Faculty Presentations

Following are the NSU-COM full-time and clinical faculty members who made presentations at the 29th Annual Florida Society ACOFP Convention and National Family Practice Update held July 29-August 2 in Orlando:

**Joseph Allgeier, D.O.** – "Cuidate and Project Pressure"

**Pablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H., and Neal Stief** – "Health Information: Incorporating Electronic Medical Records in Family Medicine"

**Hilda De Gaetano, D.O.** – "The Pediatric Well Exam and Updates in Immunization"

**Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S.Ed** – "Family Medicine Workshop"

**Robert DiGiovanni, D.O.** – "Rheumatology: Arthrocentesis and Synovial Joint Analysis"

**Michael Gervasi, D.O.** – "Risk Management"

**Merrill Krolick, D.O.** – "Peripheral Vascular Disease for the Family Practitioner"

**Mike Markou, D.O.** – "Workshop Procedures for the Family Physician: Botox, Facial Fillers, Liposuction, Hair and Eyebrow Restoration, Platelet-Rich Plasma"

**Robert Norman, D.O.** – "Dermatology: A Review of Skin Problems Seen in Your Office"

**Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, and Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D.** – "Weight Loss and Frailty in Older Adults"

**Michael Schulman, D.O.** – "Gastroenterology: Irritable Bowel Syndrome" and "Update on GERD"

**Lee Shettle, D.O.** – "Ophthalmology: Diagnosis and Care of Eye Problems Common to the Family Practice"

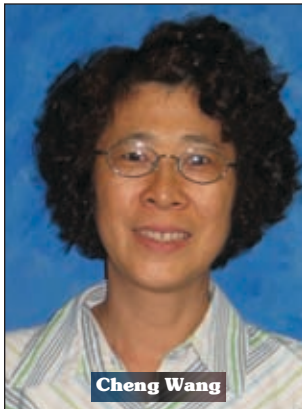
**William Stager, D.O., M.S.** – "Osteopathic Medicine in Everyday Family Practice"

**Joel Stein, D.O.** – "OMT Lecture and Workshop"

**Ron Walsh, D.O.** – "Cardiology: Risk Factor Reduction for Coronary Art Disease"

# Wang Presents Research in China

By Deborah Mulligan, M.D., FAAP, FACEP  
Director, NSU-HPD Institute for Child Health Policy



Cheng Wang

In June, **Cheng Wang, M.A., M.S.**, statistician/systems analyst for the Health Professions Division's Institute for Child Health Policy (ICHP) and adjunct assistant professor of public health, was invited to Zhejiang Forestry University in Hangzhou, China, to present current ICHP research and statistics used in the U.S. public health arena with focus on drowning prevention and water safety for young children.

Three years ago, the World Health Organization (WHO) and several international health partners came together in China to hold a unique workshop addressing two important issues that rarely make headlines – the significant number of lives claimed by drowning each year, and how these deaths can possibly be prevented.

The statistics are sobering. More than 150 people drown each day in China – and more than half of these fatalities are children under 15. Ministry of Health estimates tally more than 57,000 drowning deaths in China each year, and WHO estimates are significantly higher. No matter which measurement mechanism you choose, the fact remains that drowning claims far too many lives each year.

Statistics, of course, do not exist in a vacuum. They reflect a reality that is complex and challenging. We know that drowning is a leading cause of injury mortality in China, and we recognize that drowning rates are 4 to 10 times greater in rural areas than urban areas. Wang took the opportunity to hold discussions and collect information on drowning prevention initiatives with faculty members and graduate students from several Chinese universities located in the Beijing and Shanghai region.

Comparing this experience to research here in Florida, she came to the realization that drowning is an international public health problem claiming young lives due to lack of knowledge and proper protection. In addition, many of the people with whom she spoke were parents who felt the drowning risk of young children has been overlooked. Also, when a drowning incident occurs, people tend to blame parents for not taking care of their child. Rarely had anyone Wang spoke with thought deeper about changing the situation on



the societal level through public health education, policy, and legislation.

The Chinese Ministry of Health and the National Centre for Non-Communicable Disease Control and Prevention in China are to be commended for their efforts thus far. We know that when China is committed to taking action, regardless of the issue involved, there is no stopping until success is achieved. A native to Beijing and graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara and the Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Zoology in Beijing, Wang will continue to maintain relations with key leaders to help bring about specific and practical drowning prevention strategies.

Recognizing there is a long way to go, we are confident that with persistence and effort from many in the drowning prevention field, this problem will be addressed successfully – with the end result being lives saved.

Please visit [www.nova.edu/ichp](http://www.nova.edu/ichp) to learn more about ICHP research projects on this priority public health initiative and select *drowning* to enter the new NSU Drowning Prevention Clearinghouse. A Florida Department of Health Bureau of EMS matching grant funded this study, which resulted in development of the aforementioned Web site.

## Recently Submitted Grant Proposals

*"MSM in Midlife: Managing Sex, Identity, and HIV Risk"*

Submitted by **Robin Jacobs, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of preventive medicine and a member of the Behavioral Health Promotion Program, to the *National Institutes of Health*

Requested amount: \$2,069,940

*"Development and Validation of a Computer-Administered Health Literacy Assessment"*

Submitted by **Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.Ed., M.B.A.**, professor and chair of the Department of Psychiatry, to the *National Institutes of Health*

Requested amount: \$1,693,318

*"An Automated, Tailored Information Application for Medication Health Literacy"*

Submitted by **Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.Ed., M.B.A.**, professor and chair of the Department of Psychiatry, to the *National Institute of Mental Health*

Requested amount: \$362,053



# Looking Back...at Where We Went



Arnold Melnick, D.O., M.Sc.

**A**lthough this column and this publication are dedicated to the College of Osteopathic Medicine, its history cannot be complete without spelling out the growth and proliferation of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM), Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, and the Nova Southeastern University Health Professions

Division—a fantastic development over a relatively short period of time (6 colleges in 16 years).

**College of Pharmacy** – As we were developing SECOM, the executive director of Southeastern Hospital, which was located across the street from us and named after us to create a uniform identity, visited Mort Terry. He complained that he could not find enough pharmacists and asked why we did not start a pharmacy school. Around the same time, a young, dynamic owner of a local pharmacy, Allen Nichol, volunteered with us and became a sparkplug in the development of this new school. Of course, HPD Chancellor Fred Lippman, who has played such an active role in our growth, was especially helpful with this college. A pharmacist himself, Fred advised us, brought in community pharmacists, and created a board of overseers, among other things. Within 15 months of deciding to establish this program, we had organized a new pharmacy school and had taken our first class.

**College of Optometry** – Lee Diamond, an established optometrist practicing down the street from us, frequently volunteered in the planning for a college of optometry and was a key player in its founding. It had been only a couple of years since we established the College of Pharmacy, but we made the decision to begin work on a college of optometry, especially since there was none in Florida. Lee arranged a meeting with the state association, where we were encouraged and became impressed particularly by one of its representatives, Stewart Abel. Mort and I asked him to join us, and he was hired as the first optometry dean, with Lee joining him in administration. At that point, Mort and I realized we had met the state educational requirements of having three schools, so we became Southeastern University of the Health Sciences.

**College of Allied Health** – SECOM had hired an outstanding physician assistant, Kay Ericson, who was making a name for herself teaching in our physical diagnosis course. That gave us the impetus to start a P.A. program and, working with Kay, who became its first director, we established the College of Allied Health. We also intended to add occupational therapy and physical

therapy programs, which we did soon after the college was created, with Stan Cohen taking the reins as its acting dean until we could hire a full-time dean.

*(It is interesting how, in each case, a single individual – now gone – influenced the establishment of a new college: Allen Nichol, Lee Diamond, and Kay Ericson.)*

**College of Medical Sciences** – It was obvious that all four colleges utilized basic medical sciences, so why duplicate expenditures by hiring separate faculty members? As a result, we created the College of Medical Sciences to provide all the basic science needed by the four schools and to produce programs of its own, such as a master's degree in medical sciences.

**College of Dental Medicine** – Not surprisingly, Mort and I had been discussing our next move. We discussed veterinary medicine and dentistry and even found a perfectly suitable farm nearby (we had heard that South Florida needed a large-animal facility, and the nearest veterinary school was in Gainesville). After much discussion, we determined to go with dentistry. Interestingly, my personal friend from Philadelphia, Seymour Oliet, a longtime faculty member and professor of endodontics at the University of Pennsylvania, visited Florida each year. On each of many visits, we had kidded about starting a dental school and conjectured that he would be the dean—neither of us ever dreaming it would become a reality. The idea was presented to the board, which approved a taskforce to investigate. Seymour was appointed chairman. The taskforce was large (35-40 members) and representative of every constituency, including the community. Its unanimous decision led the board to establish the College of Dental Medicine, and the university engaged Seymour as the dean of the first new dental school in the United States in 25 years.

So, that's where we went – six semi-independent colleges—independent but with equality within the university. Not like all other medical schools that added programs and retained oversight and jurisdiction over the other programs, subjugating them to the medical school supervision.

It was rather more like a family. First, there was husband and wife, then mom and pop, then the kids. Those children grew up and became adults living their own lives, but always carrying a loyalty and connection to mom and pop. That's how families grow; that's how we grew; that's the secret of our success in developing one of the largest complements of health professions schools in a single university. That's real family.



*Dr. Arnold Melnick is the founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (the precursor to NSU-COM). His pithy columns serve as a humorous and insightful bridge to the past—and remind us of how far our college has come in a relatively short period of time.*

**Pablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H., FAAFP**, associate professor of family medicine/public health, recently was promoted to the position of assistant dean of clinical operations and graduate education. His expanded responsibilities include overseeing the college's Master of Public Health and Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics programs, the Department of EMS Education and Training programs, and the NSU medical clinics.

**Stephen Cina, M.D.**, clinical professor of pathology and deputy chief medical examiner for Broward County, Florida, was interviewed on forensic topics by the *Washington Post*, *Time* magazine online, the *L.A. Times*, and the *New York Times*. He continues to chair the College of American Pathologists Forensic Pathology Committee.

**Robert Contrucci, D.O.**, clinical associate professor of surgery, was proud to have his practice—the Southeastern, Ear, Nose, Throat, and Sinus Center—selected to be the first otolaryngologist's office in Broward County, Florida, to dispense the new Lyric Extended Wear Hearing Aid, which is a revolutionary hearing aid a patient can wear for up to four months—24 hours a day, seven days a week.



**Jon Dodds, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, who joined the college as a full-time faculty member in the summer of 2000, was recently promoted from the rank of assistant to associate professor of public health. Dr. Dodds also serves as assistant director of the college's Master of Public Health Program.



**Tracy Favreau, D.O.**, assistant director of clinical dermatology who joined the NSU-COM faculty in 2007, was featured in an article titled "Smooth Skin Comes at a Cost for Waxers" that appeared on the *WMBF News.com* Web site in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.



**James Howell, M.D., M.P.H.**, professor and chair of the Department of Rural Medicine, was named vice chair of the Palm Beach County Health Facilities Authority, which was established by the Board of County Commissioners in 1977. The organization was created to assist in the development and maintenance of not-for-profit health care facilities within the county and has authorized an estimated \$1.6 billion of bonds for hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care facilities.



**Deborah Mulligan, M.D., FAAP, FACEP**, clinical professor of pediatrics and director of the NSU-HPD Institute for Child Health Policy, led a health roundtable at the El Día de los Niños Public Forum, which was held April 30 at the Capitol View Business and Conference Center in Washington, D.C. Dr. Mulligan, who serves as a National Latino

Children's Institute executive board member, was in attendance to celebrate with Utah Senator Orrin Hatch, who commemorated the 10th anniversary of the resolution he authored to recognize April 30, 2009, as El Día de los Niños (Day of the Children).



**Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.Ed., M.B.A.**, professor and chair of the Department of Psychiatry, passed his certification in the psychosomatic subspecialty of psychiatry. Prior to joining the NSU-COM faculty earlier this year, Dr. Ownby worked at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.



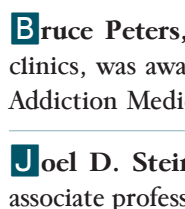
**Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP**, professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, was filmed by The Newborn Channel for a TV segment addressing the topic of safe-sleep practices for infants. The program is shown via closed-circuit TV broadcasts in hospital maternity wards throughout the country. He also organized and participated in NSU's Back to School physicals event in August.



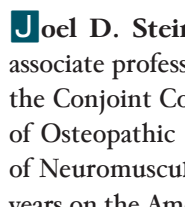
**John Pelloisic, D.O., M.P.H., FAOCOPM**, assistant professor of preventive medicine and public health, has been named interim chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine, replacing Jean Malecki, M.D., M.P.H., FACPM, who recently relocated to Arizona.



**Alina Perez, J.D., M.P.H.**, assistant professor of public health, provided a presentation on "Aging, Driving, and Public Health: A Therapeutic Jurisprudence Approach" at the XXXI Congress of the International Academy of Law and Mental Health, which was held in New York from June 28 through July 4.



**Bruce Peters, D.O., FACOP**, director of the NSU medical clinics, was awarded diplomate status by the American Board of Addiction Medicine.



**Joel D. Stein, D.O., FFAO, FAOASM, FACOPF**, clinical associate professor of family medicine, was appointed vice chair of the Conjoint Committee on Sports Medicine by the AOA Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists and the American Osteopathic Board of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine. In addition, after serving 12 years on the American Osteopathic Board of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine, Dr. Stein has been appointed to the American Academy of Osteopathy Committee on Fellowship.





**D**avid Thomas, M.D., J.D., professor of surgery and public health and chair of the Department of Surgery and the Division of Correctional Medicine, served as a mentor/leader in June at the Coalition for Correctional Health Authorities in Washington, D.C., which is a Department of Justice-funded program that attempts to train new correctional health care physicians and administrators through interaction with former senior leaders in the field. In June, he presented a lecture on "Protecting Your License in an Era of Diminishing Resources" at the World Research Congress on Correctional Health Care in Washington, D.C., and was appointed to the Governor's Task Force on Juvenile Justice, which became the Blueprint Commission for the overhaul of the juvenile justice system in Florida. He also was appointed to the senior editorial board of a peer-reviewed publication entitled *Correctional Healthcare Today*.



**E**laine Wallace, D.O., M.Sc., professor and associate dean for academic administration, and **Dr. Deborah Mulligan** have been appointed to the Global Child Health Educational Modules Project Advisory Council. The project, which is funded by the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on International Child Health and the Global Health Education Consortium, is developing a series of peer-reviewed and problem-based online teaching modules covering key topic areas in pediatric global health directed to U.K., U.S., and Canadian medical residents as well as faculty members, community physicians, and fellows.

## Dr. Silvagni Wins Leadership Award



**Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FACOPF dist.**, NSU-COM dean, received the 2009 Quality Leadership Award in August from the Florida Health Care Coalition (FHCC) for his work with the Florida Patient Safety Corporation. The award, which recognized Dr. Silvagni for "promoting and preserving the highest standards for patient safety," was presented during the FHCC's Fourth

Annual South Florida Conference held at the Signature Grand in Davie. The goals of the Florida Health Care Coalition, which represents nearly two million public and private sector employees, are to educate consumers and improve the quality of health care while reducing the rising rate of health care costs. Dr. Silvagni also was selected to serve as a member on the AOA's Bureau of Osteopathic Education. *Pictured (from left) are Dr. Silvagni with Becky Cherney, president/CEO of the Florida Health Care Coalition, and Mark Weinstein, executive director of the Independent Colleges and Universities Benefits Association.*

## Meet the New NSU-COM Faculty Members

**O**ver the past several months, a number of new faculty members joined the NSU-COM family. They are:

**Tye Barber, D.O., Ph.D.**, who joined the Department of Family Medicine, received his D.O. degree from NSU-COM in 2006 and earned his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from the University of Florida in 1992.

**Katerina Linley, D.O.**, who graduated from NSU-COM in 2004, has joined the Department of Family Medicine. She completed her internship and residency training at Palmetto General Hospital.

**Bruce Peters, D.O., FACOP**, the new medical director of the NSU medical clinics, previously worked with Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in New York. He received his D.O. degree from the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his residency training at Cook County Hospital. Dr. Peters is a board-certified pediatrician who also holds board certification in addiction medicine.

**Dianne Rehtine, M.D.**, who has worked with the Florida Department of Corrections for many years, was hired to serve as program director of the college's Correctional Medicine Fellowship.

**Kenya Rivas, M.D.**, who recently completed her geriatric fellowship training at Florida Hospital in Orlando, has joined the Department of Geriatrics faculty. Dr. Rivas earned her M.D. degree from Los Andes University in Venezuela and completed her family medicine residency training at Florida Hospital.

**Paul "Chip" Roberts, D.O.**, has assumed the position of program director of the new Florida Department of Corrections Residency and will work in conjunction with Dr. Raymond Ownby.

**Xinhua Yu, M.D., Ph.D.**, who earned his Ph.D. in epidemiology from the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health, is the latest addition to the M.P.H. Program. Prior to joining NSU-COM, Dr. Yu worked as a research associate in the Division of Health Policy at the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health.



Dr. Tye Barber



Dr. Katerina Linley



Dr. Bruce Peters



Dr. Dianne Rehtine



Dr. Kenya Rivas



Dr. Xinhua Yu

## Getting to Know...The Public Health Student Association



Pictured (from left) are the 2009-10 officers with several M.P.H. faculty members. They are Neha Kumar, Melissa Buguslawski, Brooke Schlieuwe, Dr. Cyril Blavo, Alina Perez, Ruth Chery, Nonna Kozlenko, and Adriana Rodriguez.

**A**midst the myriad student organizations at NSU-COM, the Public Health Student Association (PHSA) has been, from its inception in 1999, an organization committed to furthering the public health mission of “assuring the conditions in which the community can be healthy.” Through educational programs, food drives, health fairs, and collaboration with community organizations, the PHSA has impacted the health of South Florida communities stretching from Davie to Belle Glade.

The PHSA is an organization dedicated to enhancing the educational experience and professional development of students by providing information, resources, and opportunities such as community projects, advocacy, and networking. The organization’s goal is to increase student involvement as well as create awareness concerning various public health issues, while activities are geared around facilitating community service while promoting public health in the surrounding communities, the state, and worldwide. To put it succinctly, the organization strives to foster the knowledge, skills, and experiences that will produce tomorrow’s most-qualified public health professionals.

The organization also promotes and encourages the interaction of students with the college’s faculty, staff, and administration so students can provide valuable input over programmatic issues, gain knowledge of educational opportunities, and obtain guidance in directing their public health careers. “The Public Health Student Association was established to provide community-based volunteer experiences to our public health students to augment what they learned in the program,” said Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M., director of the college’s Master of Public Health Program and founder of the PHSA. “Activities with the migrant workers at the Borinquen Clinic in Miami, volunteering at health fairs, and participating in health education campaigns provide students with the unparalleled

experience of evaluating firsthand the needs of underserved and vulnerable populations in need of health care. Through the years, new M.P.H. students have continued to further the mission of the organization.”

Over the past academic year, the organization invited various community leaders to speak at its monthly meetings, who addressed an eclectic range of public health topics such as strategies to provide health care for the underserved public in economic hard times in Florida, smoking cessation and public health outreach, and female circumcision and the public health effect in developing countries. To foster a sense of university camaraderie, the monthly meetings are open to all NSU faculty members, students, and alumni as well as community members interested in public health.

The PHSA also reached out to the community by participating in a multitude of community events such as

- NSU’s A Day for the Children health fair, where club members addressed self-esteem issues
- AHEC/AMSA’s Glades Rural Education and Community Health (REACH) Fair, where hurricane preparedness information was distributed
- NSU/FOMA’s Health Fair, where breast cancer awareness and prenatal care education was promoted
- NSU’s Blues Festival, where attendees were informed about hunger in Broward County and a canned-food drive was organized that raised over 21,000 items for the Cooperative Feeding Program.

“Being part of the PHSA is an intrinsic component of a student’s development as a future public health practitioner,” said Alina Perez, J.D., M.P.H., assistant professor of public health and faculty adviser to the organization. “Through involvement in the club’s activities, the opportunities to develop leadership skills and a practical knowledge of public health while networking with organizations in the community are priceless. All students, whether in the M.P.H. Program or not, should avail themselves to those experiences to become a better-rounded professional in the future.”

### 2009-10 PHSA Executive Board

**Melissa Boguslawski** (*president*)

**Nonna Kozlenko** (*vice president*)

**Neha Kumar** (*secretary*)

**Brook Schlieuwe** (*treasurer*)

**Adriana Rodriguez**  
(*co-health education and research chair*)

**Ruth Danielle Cheny**  
(*co-health education and research chair*)



# CEME SPOTLIGHT:

## An Overview of Miami Children's Hospital



**F**ounded in 1950 by Variety Clubs International, Miami Children's Hospital® (MCH) is South Florida's only licensed specialty hospital exclusively for children, with more than 650 attending physicians and over 130 pediatric subspecialists. The 289-bed hospital is renowned for excellence in all aspects of pediatric medicine, with several specialty programs ranked among the best in the nation in 2008 by *U.S. News & World Report*. The hospital also is home to the largest pediatric teaching program in the southeastern United States and has been designated an American Nurses Credentialing Center Magnet facility—the nursing profession's most prestigious institutional honor. In fact, MCH was the first children's hospital in Florida and the fifth children's hospital nationwide to achieve this distinction.

The affiliation between NSU-COM and Miami Children's Hospital goes as far back as January 14, 1998. A few months later, the hospital received approval for its osteopathic pediatric residency program. MCH was a member of the board of directors when

the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education (CEME) made its application in January 1999 to become an OPTI—thus making the hospital a founding CEME member.

Each academic year, approximately 70 NSU-COM students rotate through Miami Children's Hospital, which sponsors core pediatric rotations for third-year medical students as well as sub-internships and a variety of pediatric elective rotations in the fourth year of medical school. NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine and Miami Children's Hospital also collaborated to develop a pediatric graduate medical education training program. MCH offers an osteopathic pediatric internship that meets AOA requirements for a rotating internship while also fulfilling the requirements for the first year of pediatric residency as determined by the AOA, ACOP, and OPTI. Together, the one-year internship and subsequent two years of residency constitute a comprehensive accredited three-year training program that offers experience in all facets of pediatric care from the most complex intensive care to the community practice of general pediatrics.

Following are the various postgraduate programs currently offered by MCH:

**Categorical Pediatric  
Residency Program (ACGME Accredited)**

**Osteopathic Pediatric Internship  
and Residency Programs (AOA Accredited)**

**Pediatric Critical Care  
Medicine Fellowship Program (ACGME Accredited)**

**Pediatric Emergency  
Medicine Fellowship Program (ACGME Accredited)**

**Adolescent Medicine  
Fellowship Program (ACGME Accredited)**

**Pediatric Radiology  
Fellowship Program (ACGME Accredited)**

**Clinical Neurophysiology  
Fellowship Program (ACGME Accredited)**

Over the past several years, MCH has received a number of prestigious honors for its outstanding programs and services. For example, in 2008, three MCH programs were ranked among the best in the nation in *U.S. News & World Report's* America's Best Children's Hospitals issue. MCH programs listed in the rankings included cardiology/cardiovascular surgery, neonatology, and neurology/neurosurgery. In 2009, MCH was the only Florida hospital to be included in *Parents* magazine's ranking of Best Children's Hospitals. In addition, MCH has been honored annually by *South Florida Parenting* and its readers since 1997. In 2008, the hospital was recognized among the Best of the Best Pediatric Hospitals. In addition, the MCH Dan Marino Center was honored in the Best of the Best Services for Special Needs category.

Miami Children's Hospital's Department of Medical Education is under the leadership of Balagangadhar Totapally, M.D. (interim director of medical education), Iran Niroomand-Rad, D.O. (osteopathic pediatric program director), Beatriz Cunill-De Sautu, M.D. (pediatric program director), and Jefry Biehler, M.D. (medical student education program director).

For more information about Miami Children's Hospital and its training programs, please visit <http://www.mch.com/page/EN/77/For-Medical-Professionals/For-Physicians.aspx>.

## MCH Fast Facts

**M**CH has been annually ranked among the nation's top training organizations since 2006 by *Training* magazine, which ranks organizations that excel at training based on factors including financial commitment, programs offered, methods of evaluation, workplace surveys, and various human resources data.

**T**he MCH Congenital Heart Institute is one of the leading programs in the nation based on volume and clinical outcomes.

The program boasts a 98 percent survival rate—one of the best in the world.

**T**he MCH Brain Institute is the largest clinical neurology program in the nation, treating more than 45,000 children annually.

**T**he hospital is home to the largest children's cancer center in the region and features South Florida's only freestanding pediatric trauma center.

**M**CH is the number one provider of pediatric orthopedics in the state and serves as the state-designated treatment center for children with craniofacial differences.

**T**he Neonatology Division admits more than 900 newborns each year, with virtually all referred from general acute-care hospitals.

**T**he Miami Children's Hospital Research Institute is one of the largest providers of pediatric clinical research in the region.

**M**CH is the region's lead organization for Safe Kids Worldwide, providing child safety education and prevention via the Division of Preventive Medicine.

**M**CH offers five ambulatory care centers to accommodate the increasing demand for pediatric outpatient services. These facilities are based in Doral, Miami Lakes, Palmetto Bay, West Kendall, and Weston. The hospital is committed to being "where the children are," enhancing community access to MCH-quality care and expertise.



Since 2005, *COM Outlook* has featured informative spotlights on the various organizations that comprise the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education. The accomplishments and contributions of this interactive educational network are indeed merit worthy because each participating institution provides exceptional postdoctoral training opportunities throughout Florida and the southeastern United States.





## CBAP Takes Leadership Role in Preparing NSU Community for H1N1

**D**uring the past summer, the world has been awakened to the reality of a *Phase 6 Pandemic Outbreak* as determined by the World Health Organization. The situation is no longer an emergency preparedness exercise. It is now a public health emergency the NSU-COM Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness (CBAP) has been talking about for the past four years in its training and education programs that have been delivered in 48 states and 14 international sites via online delivery. "In spite of all our ongoing training and that of numerous other public health preparedness programs and centers throughout the United States, we as a nation are prepared while most of the rest of the world, although concerned and vigilant, remains unprepared," said Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., professor of family medicine/public health and CBAP project director.

The H1N1 virus first emerged in the spring of 2009. It was identified as the swine flu because many of the genes in this new virus are very similar to influenza viruses that normally occur in pigs. The first novel H1N1 patient in the United States was confirmed by laboratory testing at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on April 15, 2009. By June 3, all 50 states as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico were reporting cases of novel H1N1 infection. Fear became so widespread that Egypt ordered the slaughter of the country's 300,000 pigs at a time when no cases were reported there.

Travelers wore face masks to protect themselves from swine flu. Mexico, where it was first thought the H1N1 virus initiated from, suffered significant loss in tourism travel. A news article reported that a Long Island-based manufacturer of surgical masks was working around-the-clock due to a surge in demand related to concerns over swine flu. Early on in the spring outbreak, many schools and businesses closed down indefinitely.

Most everyone is familiar with the seasonal flu, target population groups, levels of severity, and annual death rates attributed to it. Now we are in a very different scenario. The H1N1 is a novel flu strain because its target group is very different than the seasonal flu. During the first wave in the outbreak cycle, severity of symptoms appears to be mild and death rates are lower than those resulting from seasonal flu. The unknowns in the novel H1N1, combined with the stark reality that the virus could mutate this fall and winter, are a wake-up call for the entire global society. Everyone now must prepare for the double barrel flu season. The equation might look like this: seasonal flu + novel H1N1 = ?

### NSU-COM Response

Leaders from CBAP, the college's Department of Preventive Medicine, and its Public Health Program quickly responded to the outbreak by implementing the COM Pandemic Preparedness Plan and by working with staff from the



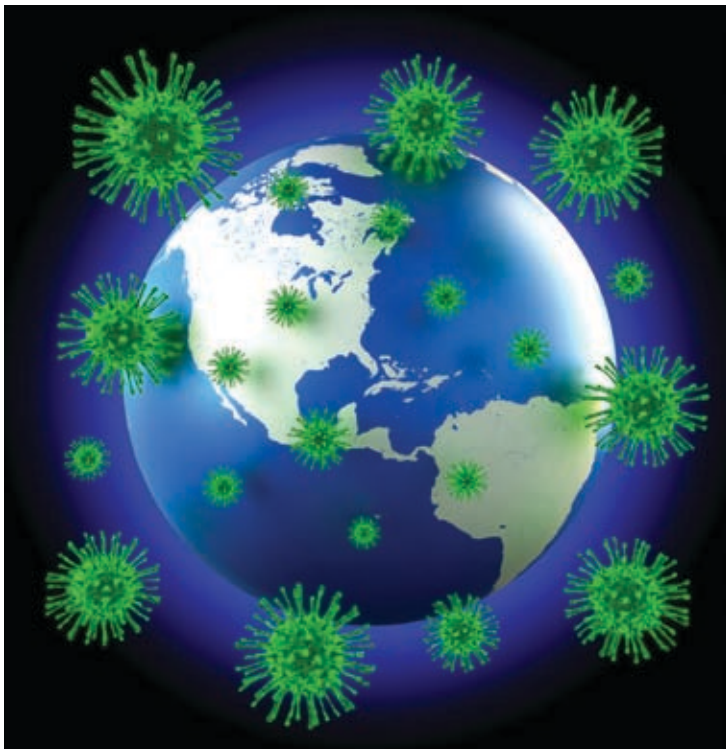
NSU Office of Public Affairs to form a COM Pandemic Preparedness Task Force for the NSU community. This group has been meeting on a weekly basis at minimum to monitor the plan's implementation and to work with those in key positions in the university's Incident Command Structure (ICS). Meetings via telephone conference also have been held with the CDC at least weekly. In addition, members of the COM taskforce meet on an ongoing basis with state and county health department officials and with statewide pandemic coordinating committees working with all of the state's educational institutions. "We at NSU are very unique because our educational community includes people as young as 6 weeks all the way to those in our Lifelong Learning Institute who may be over 90 years old," Dr. Rokusek explained. "Because the H1N1 virus affects those ranging in age from 6 months to 24 years, we have been working very closely with the administration and faculty in our preschool, as well as our lower, middle, and high schools."

### Are We Prepared?

"Since the H1N1 flu has symptoms that have mostly been mild, there is no need to panic," said Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., professor of family medicine/public health and associate dean of the Department of Education, Planning, and Research. "But we must be prepared, and we must practice prevention and good public health preparation."

According to the CDC, everyone should get a seasonal flu vaccine, and for those in key population groups identified by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), a H1N1 vaccine is recommended as soon as it becomes available. These groups include the following:

- **Pregnant women** because they are at higher risk of complications and can potentially provide protection to infants who cannot be vaccinated.



- **Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than six months of age** because younger infants are at higher risk of influenza-related complications and cannot be vaccinated. Vaccination of those in close contact with infants less than six months old might help protect infants by cocooning them from the virus.

- **Health care and emergency medical services personnel** who are in direct contact with patients because they are at a higher risk of becoming infected and can be a potential source of infection for vulnerable patients. Also, increased absenteeism in this population could reduce health care system capacity.

- **All people from 6 months through 24 years of age.** This includes children from 6 months through 18 years of age because we have seen many cases of novel H1N1 in children, and they are in close contact with each other in school and day care settings, which increases the likelihood of disease spread. In addition, young adults through 24 years of age need to be vigilant because we have seen many cases of novel H1N1 influenza in these healthy young adults who often live, work, and study in close proximity and are a frequently mobile population.

- **Persons aged 25-64 years** who have health conditions associated with higher risk of complications from influenza.

### It Won't Be Over Quickly

It is important to remember that flu outbreaks come in waves. Even though the spring outbreak was not that severe, it is anticipated that in the fall a second wave is about to occur. As of now, it is expected that the second wave will not be more severe than the first, but it is being constantly monitored for any changes in virulence.

Two major health organizations say the H1N1 (swine flu) pandemic could affect a vast portion of the world's population. The CDC announced that the number of Americans stricken with H1N1 could reach 20 to 40 percent of the population over the next two years. Meanwhile, the World Health Organization's flu chief says the global H1N1 (swine flu) outbreak is still in its early stages and two billion infections over the course of the pandemic is "a reasonable ballpark to be looking at."





According to Dr. Levy, schools at all levels must practice prevention techniques that include

- frequent hand washing with soap
- use of alcohol-based sanitizers whenever one comes into contact with public surfaces or items (such as grocery carts or toys and school athletic items)
- covering your mouth or nose with a tissue or the bend of the arm while coughing and sneezing
- avoiding contact with people who are sick or if you are sick
- disposing the tissue in the trash
- avoiding hand contact with mouth, face, and eyes

"It is anticipated that people will remain at risk through October and November when the height of the surge of the novel flu will most likely occur," Dr. Rokusek said. "We need to be especially cautious in our academic community, but we need to also alert others to the dangers of H1N1 and to the fact that 20 to 40 percent of the population may be affected, which means businesses and our normal way of living may also be affected."

The CBAP team provides training to the NSU community highlighting the following areas:

- explanation of H1N1



- those at highest risk of contracting the H1N1 virus
- prevention
- communication across campus and for those off-campus or at other locations
- telephone triage
- dealing with student concerns
- students in dormitories—self isolation and isolation areas
- dealing with surge capacity
- priorities and procedures for vaccinations when they are released, including security concerns
- excessive student, faculty, and staff absences
- options for work and study at home
- work with outside vendors and service to the university
- guidelines for returning to campus by students, faculty, and staff

"Complacency is our worst enemy," stressed Dr. Levy. "The pandemic is here—our readiness will be reflected in our ability to respond without time delays."

To learn more about the H1N1 virus, please visit the CDC Web site at [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov).





*Dr. Heidi Lane guides students through an I-Stan demonstration.*

# I-Stan Simulator Provides Students with Cutting-Edge Medical Education

*By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications*

**D**ue to the incredible technological advances that have occurred over the past several decades, numerous sectors of our global society have benefitted from life-enhancing developments such as the Internet and the sophistication of computers and software.

These types of advances have been especially advantageous to the medical field, which is constantly seeking new ways to improve training opportunities for student physicians that will result in enhanced patient care at all levels. When it comes to the schooling of medical students, one of the more-recent innovations has been the introduction of full-body, high-fidelity human patient simulators, which serve as functional teaching tools that deliver an easily controlled teaching laboratory where students can practice their skills until high-level patient care becomes second nature.

Last year, NSU-COM purchased a \$65,000 METI I-Stan simulator to provide its students with yet another educational tool to hone their arsenal of clinical skills. "As computers and technology have become more advanced and less expensive, it made it more affordable for us to purchase a full-body simulator," said Marti Echols, Ph.D., M.Ed., assistant professor of internal medicine and assistant dean of medical education. "It's an incredible teaching tool because it has the programming capabilities to simulate all types of health incidences and

disease states. I-Stan is very lifelike because he can do things such as blink his eyes, breathe, and talk. Additionally, because it's such a comprehensive device, we can simulate wounds that actually ooze a blood-like substance so the students can learn how to apply a tourniquet. I-Stan can also sweat from the forehead and neck area, so we can duplicate a low blood sugar diabetic episode."

## Some of I-Stan's other key features include

- pupils that automatically dilate and constrict in response to light
- thumb twitch in response to a peripheral nerve stimulator
- automatic recognition and response to administered drugs and drug dosages
- variable lung compliance and airway resistance
- automatic response to needle decompression of a tension pneumothorax/chest-tube drainage/pericardiocentesis
- automatic control of urine output

Because the wireless and tetherless I-Stan is model-driven, just about anything that can happen to a real patient—from common problems to severe events such as



malignant hyperthermia, anaphylaxis, tension pneumothorax, and cardiac tamponade—can be simulated and tailored. In addition, because learning to administer the right drug in the right dosage to the right patient requires knowledge and experience, I-Stan allows students to master this vital skill without fear of harming an actual patient. Using barcode technology, the simulator requires learners to scan a given drug, allowing the instructor and learner the ability to track the thought process as it pertains to the development of a plan of care. This process forces learners to evaluate key factors prior to administering the drug such as drug specificity, pediatric versus adult dosages, IV versus oral administration, and any specific drug allergy considerations.

"I saw this as an opportunity for the college to really link textbook and classroom knowledge with clinical training," Dr. Echols explained. "When the students get significant exposure to I-Stan in their second year of study, they've already obtained quite a bit of textbook knowledge. However, without the ability of really seeing how a patient responds and what happens to the body while it's in a stressed condition, there's no way for a student to know or anticipate all the things that will happen. I saw simulation as an opportunity to fill a gap in the medical education of our students that would allow them to learn about a process without harming an actual patient. We can give I-Stan a myocardial infarction or an asthma attack just as though a person in the emergency room (ER) was presenting with these types of conditions."

Due to the fact that I-Stan can be preprogrammed via a computer to simulate so many symptoms and disease states, NSU-COM students get to react to the type of real-life scenarios they will be dealing with during their clinical rotations, postgraduate training—and beyond. "When we're writing a scenario for the students to do, we can actually program I-Stan so he actually changes states, as would be the case with an actual patient," Dr. Echols said. "For example, if a patient is brought into the ER and the physician doesn't give the patient oxygen within a certain amount of time, body function continues to worsen, which could precipitate the onset of going into shock or convulsions. The same goes for I-Stan. The student has to come in and recognize what's wrong very quickly and immediately begin a treatment plan."

According to Dr. Echols, I-Stan has even been allowed to "die" on several occasions to illustrate to students how their actions can lead to severely dire consequences when a patient is not dealt with swiftly or appropriately. "When this occurs, the physician in charge that day will take over and explain to the student why his or her actions would have killed an actual patient," she stated.



Although the students receive intense exposure to I-Stan during their second year of study, they are introduced to the simulator during their inaugural year at NSU-COM. "In the first year, he is used to teach history and physical exams because that's when we emphasize normal physiology and the normal functioning of the body in regard to

wellness and health prevention," she explained. "When the students are learning how to do a physical exam in particular, they're learning how to perform procedures like an abdominal exam, so we can use I-Stan and have him simulate the sounds of the bowel as it normally would sound like. Because he's also "human," they can place their hands on him and feel where the bowel is supposed to be."

Since I-Stan is a multipurpose simulator that can be used in a variety of situations, the apparatus has been incorporated into the lecture environment as well, which adds a new and exciting element to classroom learning. "Dr. Natasha Bray was going to be discussing asthma attacks during her lecture, so we decided to have I-Stan lying on a gurney at the front of the lecture hall," Dr. Echols said. "During Dr. Bray's discussion of asthma, we programmed I-Stan to start making the sounds of a person suffering from an asthma attack. Then we waited to see what would happen. Would any of the students come up and try to do anything? How would they react? Fortunately, some of the students came up and tried to help. It was exciting to witness because when Dr. Bray began her lecture and started discussing the cautionary sounds and intervention techniques needed, I-Stan was right there in the lecture hall to simulate what she was describing."

"Any time you can get students motivated and excited, it enhances their learning experience," she added. "We can't go home with the students at night, so it's our job to excite them enough during the lectures and presentation of information to inspire them to go home and read additional study materials. The students react as if I-Stan is a person and not just a simulator because they immediately slip into physician mode. The students really enjoy working with I-Stan because it helps them simulate and integrate the knowledge they're learning in the classroom. They can apply the knowledge, which means the experience is stored in their long-term memory. In fact, they would like to work with I-Stan more often than the seven or eight times a year as they currently do."

The successful implementation of I-Stan into the college's curriculum has already resulted in the pending acquisition of a second simulator to meet the students' demand for additional hands-on training. "I truly felt I-Stan would enhance the students' understanding of what they're doing," she admitted. "It's one thing to acquire knowledge, but it's quite another to understand and apply that knowledge to the patient. That was really our goal—to have I-Stan be the vehicle that could really put our students at the forefront of medical education in terms of clinical training. When they transition to the third and fourth year of medical school training, they are extremely knowledgeable about the patient care a patient's going to receive."

"One of the primary benefits of simulation that we see is that it allows our students a better understanding of what patients go through during these processes," Dr. Echols explained. "Any time you can get them to be empathetic and compassionate and understand what's actually happening to the patient, they will deliver better patient care. For us, training a physician who is excellent at patient care has always been our ultimate goal."



# Expanding the Students' Worldview: A Look at International Selective Rotations

*By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications*

**P**roviding its students with the most comprehensive educational opportunities possible has been a longstanding goal of NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine. Whether it's been the incorporation of cutting-edge technology such as I-Stan and Tegrity or the introduction of various international medical outreach experiences, these enhancements have added new and dynamic dimensions to the students' learning process.

When James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., chair of the Department of Rural Medicine and professor of public health, joined the NSU-COM faculty in 1999, opportunities for students to participate in far-ranging international medical outreach programs and selective rotations were ideas that were just beginning to germinate. "Over the past decade, the Department of Rural Medicine has been extremely innovative in the area of international medicine," Dr. Howell explained. "For example, when I came here 10 years ago, most of our students spent three months doing a required rural clinical rotation at various community health centers throughout Florida. However, as I read the evaluations, most of the students felt the third month was of limited value because they had already learned the relevant skills at that site by the end of the second month."

To address this concern, the department began looking at ways to expand its educational reach by reducing the length of the core rotation to two months and initiating one-month selective rural and underserved rotations, which allow students to explore additional clinical training opportunities throughout the United States—and the world. "We started the process on our own without much forethought," he stated. "It was a real research and development project that began with one site and expanded from there."

As the selective rotation program expanded and matured, student response proved to be uniformly positive for a variety of reasons. "The students are extremely impressed

with the selectives in terms of quality of care," Dr. Howell stated. "They also appreciate the fact that we provide them with opportunities to go to places they choose and that allow them to pursue their fields of interest. Some wish to explore opportunities in the United States, while others desire to have an international experience."

According to Dr. Howell, there are two types of students who choose to pursue international selectives: Those who have a heritage in areas such as India, Latin America, and Africa or those who simply want to experience a totally different type of clinical training environment. "For example, we had one student who had no ties in India but had an interest to do a selective there," he explained. "Those who don't have a personal connection to a specific country simply want to go to experience the culture and witness firsthand how medicine is practiced in a foreign country."

Coordinating new U.S.-based and international rural selectives is a collaborative effort between the students and the Department of Rural Medicine, which includes Dr. Howell and Delia Celestine, M.P.H., administrative director and assistant professor of public health. "It occasionally happens that a student is interested in pursuing an international program or one located outside of Florida that Delia and I are not familiar with. In that case, we do an in-depth review with the student and work as a team to help arrange it," he said. "In addition, because there is so much political unrest worldwide, we counsel the students about the various safety concerns that may arise when they do international selectives."

Over the past year, students have participated in fulfilling international rural selectives in Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Germany, Ghana, India, Israel, Jamaica, Nepal, and South Africa. Four fortunate students also had the opportunity to spend a month aboard the USNS Comfort (T-AH20) Hospital Ship. In 2010, two new international selective rotation sites will be added in Canada at McMaster University–MacCARE in Brantford, Ontario, and in Mexico at Sanatorio Santa Teresita in Mexico City.

"Selectives have opened up the world for our students," said Dr. Howell, who has served as chair of the college's Medical Outreach Committee for the past two years. "What we want to produce are osteopathic physicians of the world. You can't teach international medicine with slides in front of a class. Consequently, when our students participate in these international rural and international outreach programs, they come back with a life-altering vision of the world. They learn a lot about medicine, but more importantly, they have been immersed in a culture that enhances them both personally and professionally and have learned what it really is to be a doctor in very different medical and cultural environments."



*Drs. John Stowers and Daniel Obesso bonded with a group of children during their international selective rotation in La Rioja, Argentina, last spring.*



In addition to the aforementioned international selective sites, NSU-COM established an affiliation with a rural medical school located at the Instituto Universitario de Ciencias de la Salud in La Rioja, Argentina, which marks the first time the college has entered into an international affiliation agreement with another medical school. This symbiotic medical education alliance allows students from NSU-COM to spend time doing either a core or selective rotation in Argentina—and vice versa. “We actually have an apartment in La Rioja where our students can stay during their rotation experience,” Dr. Howell stated. “In addition, Alina Perez, who is an assistant professor of public health at NSU-COM, coordinates various practical aspects of this affiliation and interviews interested students to ensure they can speak Spanish adequately before being granted permission to visit Argentina.”

Similarly, when students from the Instituto Universitario de Ciencias de la Salud spend two months at NSU-COM, they must be fairly conversant in English. Because they are considered exchange students, the Argentinean visitors pay rent to reside in one of the university’s graduate dorms located at Rolling Hills, which is located across the street from the NSU campus.

Class of 2009 graduates Daniel Obesso, D.O., and John Stowers, D.O., who were the first NSU students to participate in this enriching rotation to La Rioja last spring, were clearly impressed by the experience. “We arrived in La Rioja not knowing what to expect other than we would be working in a rural environment with patients who were coming from a place where the streets were not necessarily paved and the people did not always have running water or electricity,” Dr. Obesso said. “From the start, we were welcomed with open arms. The amazing thing was to see people who live with meager means but were always happy to share whatever they had with us and were continually appreciative of anything we could give back. More than anything, what I took from the experience is how simple acts of giving can make such a big difference. We learned medicine, of course, but most importantly, we learned a lot about the importance of simple gestures and communication. I just hope we were able to give back to them as much as they gave us.”

Dr. Stowers, who is currently doing a general surgery residency at Doctors Hospital in Ohio, went as far as saying the Argentinean rotation was a life-changing experience. “Not only did I get the chance to improve my Spanish to a level I can use on a day-to-day basis with my patients, but I also had the opportunity to evaluate and understand how physicians in Argentina approach the evaluation and management of their patients,” he explained. “Because of the lack of medicines, pharmacy, and first-aid supplies, people from the barrios came to our clinic for the most basic care. However, we also managed to see the occasional patient that came into the clinic with severe injuries or disease. While in La Rioja, we had the opportunity to participate in several public health activities primarily involving the recent spread of dengue fever from the northern countries, such as Bolivia. In addition, we addressed the follow-up care, or lack thereof, of pregnant patients from



Argentinean students Diana Gauto and Jorge Zacur spent two months honing their skills in the NSU-COM medical clinics. Pictured (from left) are Gauto, Zacur, Alina Perez, J.D., M.P.H., assistant professor of public health, and Anjali Bhasin, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine.

the barrios who needed important routine examinations as well as laboratory and microbiological testing. La Rioja is a town with some very poor people, yet you would never be able to guess it with the thriving culture, activities, and pride the residents possess. It was a great place to visit, learn, help the underserved, and meet new people.”

The success of the Argentinean rotation has led to the possibility of forming a similar affiliation with a medical school in Colombia, which is a development that pleases Dr. Howell immensely. “There was a time in the not-too-distant past when people said that osteopathic medicine would never be accepted outside the United States. Thankfully, that perception is changing, partly due to the way our students present themselves as intelligent and compassionate healers.”

Dr. Howell also is proud that NSU-COM continues to coordinate a surfeit of highly successful international health missions to needy countries such as the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Jamaica each year. “My interest is in developing a cadre of global osteopathic physicians,” he stressed. “Osteopathic holistic knowledge and osteopathic principles and practices are desperately needed throughout the world. All these initiatives would not have occurred without the exemplary leadership of Dr. Anthony Silvagni, dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Dr. Frederick Lippman, chancellor of the Health Professions Division.”

### **Did You Know?**

Unlike many other osteopathic colleges, all NSU-COM students are required to do a two-month core rural rotation. Other osteopathic schools offer rural rotations as electives or selectives, but all NSU-COM students are required to gain exposure to rural and underserved medicine during their fourth year of study. Most of these core rural rotation sites are located at 21 community health centers throughout Florida, although opportunities also exist to rotate through private physicians’ offices, ambulatory care facilities, county health departments, the Florida Department of Corrections programs, and other institutions located in Alabama and Georgia.





# Humor, Humanitarianism on Display in Ecuador

By OMS-II Leigh Anne Bressler

**I** knew it would be fun...I knew it would be challenging...I knew it would be educational.

These were all things I was convinced of months before leaving for the International Medical Outreach Club (IMOC) trip to Ecuador, which took place April 4-12, 2009. My passions for both travel and medicine assured me that going on such a trip would provide an epic experience that would help shape my future as a both a student and a doctor. In fact, the college's international outreach opportunities were a deciding factor in why I chose to come to Nova Southeastern University.

On a personal note, I felt committed to the idea of maintaining my desire and ability to travel to distant places, meet people of vastly different cultures, and experience the things that connect us all as human beings, despite just recently signing on to a future of intense schooling, grueling training, and unforgiving work schedules. For an entire semester, I had yet to really make connections with other students and doctors who were committed to the same ideals, and was hoping that the Ecuador trip would lead me to just such people, which it definitely did. Yes, Ecuador was fun, challenging, and educational. But on the whole, *inspiring* would have to be the word that best describes the experience.

Our trip was almost cancelled due to lack of physician support at first, but our leaders never gave up and somehow managed to salvage the trip weeks before it was scheduled to take place, while coming up with the most extraordinary group of students and doctors possible to participate. On the morning of departure, we gathered as mostly strangers, loaded the NSU Shark buses, and were on our way to Ecuador as planned. It was obvious from the start that we had a diverse, eclectic group of people that all happened to share a love of adventure, service, and medicine.

**Inspiration No. 1:** You can be a doctor and still be able to follow your passions, especially when they overlap. You don't have to get stuck in a hospital or office for the rest of your life. Thanks to all the participating physicians for reassuring us of those things.

Over the course of our 10 days in Ecuador, we set up clinics at four different sites, including a very basic school, a community health clinic, and two church-supported community centers where we saw around 1,000 patients. Our medical supplies were limited to what we could pack in suitcases and what we could carry in our medical bags. We used splintered wooden benches as exam tables, tents as offices, and school desks as dentist chairs. Our diagnostic



tools included stethoscopes, otoscopes, penlights, and our hands. Needless to say, we were working with very little in the way of equipment or technology. However, this did not take away from the importance of each patient's complaint, the time and attention we gave to examining each patient, and the careful decision-making on the part of the doctors as to how each patient would be treated.

**Inspiration No. 2:** Medicine is and always has been about the interaction between doctor and patient. Some of the best healing we can do is based on our ability to foster this interaction, create this trust, and use our intuition and experience to diagnose and treat. It is not, as we may fear, a job that can be entirely handled by fancy computers, diagnostic scanners, and chemical compounds.

One of the most frustrating aspects of a medical outreach trip is its temporary nature. Yes, we go somewhere exotic, see lots of patients, send them home with knowledge and treatments, and receive endless gratitude and appreciation for such things. But what about when we leave? Have we made any sort of lasting impact in such a situation? Actually, I can recall an example of a little girl who was back to eating sticky, sugary candy mere minutes after having teeth pulled and being taught about dental hygiene and cavities. This exemplified to me one of the inherent problems in practicing medicine in a place where you may never return to, considering the fact that follow-up is such a vital element.

Upon expressing this frustration, I was reassured by Dr. Elaine Wallace that this is not always the case. She had revisited Ecuador several times since her first trip, seen many patients return, and even delivered babies of women she had treated during pregnancy—and possibly given prenatal vitamins to. She also said it is important to focus on the one patient whose life you may have changed by just seeing and talking to him.

**Inspiration No. 3:** Focus on that one person. You cannot help everyone; you cannot save everyone; you cannot fix everyone. If you let those limitations rule you, you will never accomplish anything. On the other hand, each patient that walks into your office has the potential to be that one person who you can save.



I can't speak for the entire group, but I left Ecuador feeling I had learned more and experienced more in those 10 days than I had in almost eight months of medical school. Some of this was based on specific moments with a patient or lessons from a doctor, and some of it was just based on the overall experience and the reflection of it in the days that followed. Whatever the case, the end product of such a trip can only be described as life-changing, reassuring, and, of course, inspiring.

**Several NSU-COM staff members participated in this year's Ecuador excursion. Below are some of their reflections of the most memorable aspects of the experience:**

**Marysel Sierra, Academic Coordinator of Medical Education**

*"While I enjoyed the beautiful country of Ecuador, I valued the occasion to help less fortunate people who were grateful in spite of their surroundings of extreme poverty. They were truly an inspiration. I felt very proud to be a part of such an outstanding institution as NSU. I will describe our mission trip to Ecuador in one word—awesome.*

*There was, however, one anecdote I will never forget. While I was translating Spanish for the doctors and medical students, we were almost finished with a patient when he whispered something. I didn't hear him well, so I asked him to tell me again. 'I think I have premature ejaculation,' he said. That took me by surprise. A million thoughts crossed my mind, and I said to myself, 'Oh God, I am really not ready for this; things are going to get very unpleasant for me now. I'm going to have to translate this in detail?' I felt my face blushing and burning. I wanted to be swallowed by the earth.*

*I started the translation and, of course, it didn't stop there because the doctors wanted details. I went ahead and started asking the patient about the situation. I was trying to speak with my hands, moving them back and forth. 'Well, whenever you are...when you are going to...ah, make love with...well, with your wife, or whoever, and when you start making love...' At that moment, one of the doctors interrupted and said, 'Ask him, is it before or after penetration?' I asked myself, 'WHAT?' But of course, it had to be done, so I finally asked him. 'What do you mean by premature? Is it before or after penetration?' He looked straight at my face and said, 'After penetration.' I immediately asked him, 'What exactly do you call premature?' He quickly responded, '10 minutes.'*



*I almost choked because I couldn't believe what I had just heard. There was no sound in the room. I tried not to have any kind of expression on my face while I turned to the three medical personnel that were all staring at me and anxiously awaiting a response. So I replied. 'He said 10 minutes after penetration.' All of a sudden, while all three were shaking their heads from side to side in disbelief, they shouted at the same time—'THAT IS NOT PREMATURE!'*"

**Ricardo Arriaza, M.S., Coordinator of Distance Learning**

*"For so many reasons, this trip was one of the most wonderful experiences of my life. I had the opportunity to visit a country I never thought I would visit and got to see firsthand how our medical students get geared up for their future careers and grow as physicians with these type of educational experiences I am certain they will never forget. Lastly and most important, this trip offered me the opportunity to repay a great blessing my family received many years ago.*

*I am originally from Guatemala and have a sister who was born with a heart condition. When she was 13 years old, she developed thrombophlebitis in her right leg. She was hospitalized in a public hospital in Guatemala City that was a poor hospital. Because the hospital lacked the medication it needed to treat her condition, it decided the best option was to cut off her leg. Miraculously, there was an international medical team visiting that specific hospital at the time. The visiting doctors requested that the hospital give them two days to administer a treatment to my sister. If she didn't respond favorably, they would then amputate her leg. My sister is now 52 years old, and throughout the years we have been able to walk, jump, run, and even dance together because of the medical mission physicians that saved her leg.*

*Now you can understand how important it was for me to have the opportunity to give a little something back by participating in this wonderful medical experience.*



## Faculty Coordinator

Elaine Wallace, D.O.

## Health Professional Participants

Ann Alvarez, M.D.

Paulette Disinger, N.P.

Mohamad El Samad

John Hood, M.D.

Dave Kane, M.D.

Albert Lambert, M.D.

Urvi Thakkar, D.O.

Eric Zickerman, D.O.

## NSU Students

Vincent Barbato (osteopathic medicine)

Leigh Anne Bressler (osteopathic medicine)

Amber Brittain (osteopathic medicine)

Faith Caine (physician assistant)

Ryan Chizner (osteopathic medicine)

Leah Delumpa (osteopathic medicine)

Stephanie Duke (physician assistant)

Preetam Gongidi (osteopathic medicine)

Jason Hardwick (osteopathic medicine)

Jacqueline Heim (osteopathic medicine)

Hans Hilst (osteopathic medicine)

Erik Jacobson (osteopathic medicine)

Bhavesh Joshi (osteopathic medicine)

Alex Kendig (osteopathic medicine)

Bhavik Khatri (osteopathic medicine)

Neil Kirschbaum (osteopathic medicine)

Nahian Latif (osteopathic medicine)

Kathryn Mazza (osteopathic medicine)

Angeli Niravel (osteopathic medicine)

Dale Robinson (osteopathic medicine)

Caryn Russman (osteopathic medicine)

Melody Strattan (osteopathic medicine)

Jennifer Summers (physician assistant)

Luly Zimmerman (osteopathic medicine)

## Volunteers

Ricardo Arriaza

Yennifer Ceron

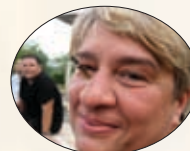
Susan Chizner

Nisha Kane

Jayesh Patel

Marysel Sierra

Maritza Valentin





# Students Appreciate Impactful Experience Aboard USNS Comfort Hospital Ship

*By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications*



*Drs. Maximiliano Mayrink, Marina Udowenko, Venette Pierre, and Cara Golish shared a truly memorable experience aboard the USNS Comfort.*

In April 2009, four recent NSU-COM graduates—Cara Golish, D.O., Maximiliano Mayrink, D.O., Venette Pierre, D.O., and Marina Udowenko, D.O.—enjoyed the experience of a lifetime when they participated in a one-month international humanitarian mission aboard the USNS Comfort (T-AH20) hospital ship during the concluding months of their NSU-COM education. The experience allowed them to provide medical care to patients aboard the ship and assist with Continuing Promise 2009 (CP09), which is an annual humanitarian civic assistance operation. Continuing Promise is supported by U.S. and international military medical personnel, U.S. government agencies, regional health ministries, nongovernmental organizations, and U.S. academic institutions as part of a group of students participating in the CP09 mission through the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) Pre-Dental Society.

This was the first time NSU-COM students—or any medical students for that matter—had the honor of working aboard the ship, which was an opportunity made possible through the efforts of the U.S. Navy and NSU College of Dental Medicine executives Robert Uchin, D.D.S., who serves as the college's dean, and Hal Lippman, D.D.S., assistant dean of admissions and student services. Even more daunting was the fact that the four participating NSU-COM students were the only medical students onboard during the ship's excursions to Haiti and the Dominican Republic, where various health care services were provided to needy indigent patients. "It was a challenge at the beginning because the staff on the ship was not really sure where we belonged because they did not understand our skill level," said Dr. Golish, who is doing her postgraduate training in OB/GYN at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Tennessee. "After about two weeks, the head of surgical services, Dr. Tim Donahue, took us under his wing and helped us feel right at

home in the operating room. Because we were the very first group of medical students to ever step foot on the ship, it took us some time to establish what we were capable of."

According to the participants, there were various factors that played into their decisions to take part in this momentously educational and altruistic experience. "Being that I am not a member of the military, I was curious to see how the military practices medicine, especially on a ship in the middle of the ocean," Dr. Golish explained. "I was amazed there was a fully functioning operating room on board that had the capacity to hold hundreds of patients. Also, I knew the experience of getting to practice medicine in the countries of Haiti and the Dominican Republic would be something I would remember for the rest of my career."

For Dr. Udowenko, who is currently doing her postgraduate family medicine training at Baylor College of Medicine in Texas, many factors played into her decision to climb aboard the USNS Comfort. "First, I was surprised to find out the military did humanitarian efforts such as these," she said. "In general, I have always associated the military with war and combat. I wanted to see how the military practices medicine, especially in medical outreach trips to countries beyond the United States. In addition, I have always wanted to live on ship, as well as discover what being in the military would be like. It was a wonderful opportunity because I did not have to commit to enlisting in a branch of the military but was still able to observe and work side-by-side with military-trained physicians."

Because they were on the cusp of graduating from NSU-COM when they participated in this international humanitarian mission, the opportunity to broaden their educational horizons while sharpening their clinical skills aboard a naval hospital ship proved to be especially enticing due to the wealth of medical conditions they knew they would encounter. "Being



*The USNS Comfort (T-AH20) Hospital Ship.*



that I'm entering into a residency in OB/GYN, I spent some time with the three OB/GYNs in the operating room observing and participating in hysterectomies for uterine fibroids, large ovarian cyst removals, and reconstructive surgery for uterine prolapse," Dr. Golish explained. "I also spent some time with the orthopedic surgeon on internally fixating old fractures that were suffering from non-union and observed multiple hernia repairs, gallbladder removals, and breast-lump removals."

"I was able to assist on several interesting procedures," added Dr. Udowenko. "A plastic surgeon let me scrub in and assist in a cleft-lip repair, which is not commonly seen in the United States anymore. I experienced how difficult it was to perform such a delicate surgery with the ship rocking back and forth. I also assisted in many orthopedic surgeries with a physician who allowed me to drill as well as remove and replace screws in a fracture. I also worked with the urology team, where I assisted in hydrocele and orchiopexies. And I discovered a new interest in anesthesiology after I learned how to place IVs and intubate patients."

### **Memorable Memories**

*Dr. Cara Golish* – There were quite a few memorable moments, but a couple stick out in my mind. The first was when I was standing on the balcony of a building in the restricted Coast Guard area in Port au Prince, Haiti, and I looked down onto the street to see hundreds of people waiting outside of the gates in 95-degree weather, crammed together, and attempting to push their way to the gate, only to get through the gate and wait in another line to see the doctors aboard the USNS Comfort. Another memory I can recall was in the nursing unit when a four-month-old baby, who had been blind since birth and had just received bilateral cataract surgery on the ship, started to react to the flashes of light produced by a camera. But the first moment I truly appreciated the impact of what the mission was able to accomplish was when a U.S. helicopter landed in an open field in Haiti and the military nurses carried out multiple children who had just received surgery on the USNS Comfort.

*Dr. Marina Udowenko* – My most vivid memory in Haiti occurred when we first set the anchor down. I will never forget how much pollution was in the ocean—shoes, dead

animals, bottles, and clothing all blanketed the beautiful sea. I will remember the people standing for hours in the hot sun behind the gate of the Coast Guard station, eagerly waiting to be seen by our physicians, and the pleading look on the faces of many who had to be turned away because of the inability to support certain major surgeries on the ship. Though Haiti and the Dominican Republic are two different countries with different cultures, the people were all very gracious for the aid they were receiving. I will not forget the young man who came in with a year-old fracture of his left humerus that had formed another joint capsule mid-shaft of the bone. It was incredible to see how the body had formed its own joint capsule over time at the fracture site.

*Dr. Venette Pierre* – In Haiti, I met a young boy, probably between seven and nine years old, who was going in for orthopedic surgery. He saw me staring at him and asked me why. I told him I liked him, and his reply was, "I am not going to marry you!" I laughed and told him I was crushed, and we played that game for most of my shift on the pre-op ward. By the time it was over, I had convinced him that he would marry me. Imagine my surprise when I found out this little boy had already proposed to three other women!

### **Did You Know?**

The University of California San Diego Pre-Dental Society runs three free dental clinics along with free medical clinics in San Diego. The society has evolved into a major nongovernmental organization that has partnered with the U.S. Navy on five humanitarian missions and placed 108 civilians on the USNS Comfort humanitarian mission. These civilians are involved in various health care fields, including dentistry, medicine, pharmacy, and nursing. Over the years, 73 students from 24 different universities have participated. Currently, the society is initiating planning for the 2010 missions, which will include deployment of the second hospital ship—the USNS Mercy—to Southeast Asia. Students and health care professionals interested in participating should contact Dr. Irvin Silverstein at [dsilverstein22@cox.net](mailto:dsilverstein22@cox.net) for additional information.



*Drs. Golish and Mayrink spend some quality time with two adorable pediatric patients.*



# Medical Outreach in the Dominican Republic a True Labor of Love

*By OMS-III April Foster, CMDA International Medical Outreach Coordinator*



*Dr. Rogerio Faillace and OMS-II Nitin Wadhwa with some local children.*

**O**n April 4, 2009, during our Easter break, a mix of NSU-COM students, staff members, and family members ventured out to offer free medical care to the people of the Dominican Republic. That morning, we felt excitement in the air. We had worked so hard over the past four months to make this trip happen. The preparation included collecting supplies, hosting supply drives, recruiting physicians, working to get the backing of our university, founding a site in the Dominican Republic to serve, and planning cultural weekends to get ready for the country we were visiting. Needless to say, that morning, as we checked in the 50 bags of supplies and took a seat waiting for the plane to take flight, we were excited to see our vision finally become a reality.

Upon arrival in Santo Domingo, many of us were surprised to see such an updated and modern airport. Our group gathered to collect all the personal items as well as supplies and medications and headed out to see the first glimpse of the land and the people that so many of us, in only a week's time, would come to cherish and love. We were greeted with a banner that said *Welcome Medical Team*, which was held up by the woman who would be preparing our food for the week at the compound.

That warm greeting opened my eyes as I saw that just as we had prepared and worked hard for them, they had prepared for us. I felt peace and comfort in knowing we all had been working for each other — each nation, culture, and person. The bags were loaded onto a small pickup truck that looked like it was about to topple over each time a bump was hit in the road. We traveled outside of Santo Domingo to the compound that was attached to the medical clinic ACOPRO, which was the clinic we were partnering with. A concrete wall with classrooms, a pavilion, a kitchen, and bathrooms enclosed the compound. The guys and girls were divided and put into the classrooms, which for the week would be transformed into our bungalows.

Small mattresses, purchased by the local mission, would provide some comfort of home while we stayed in the Dominican Republic. The gesture of the mattresses, as well as many other small acts of kindness, reminded us again that we were guests of the local people. They truly possessed the spirit of love and hospitality along with a spirit of gratefulness and true gentleness that taught our group so much during the week.

Our group, along with 20 or so local people, set up makeshift clinics in different communities on the outskirts of Santo Domingo. During our time in the country, 28 medical students, 4 physician assistant students, 1 dental student, 3 American physicians, 6 Dominican physicians, and 1 Dominican-trained dentist worked each day to deliver the needed health care to the local people. The students had an incredible opportunity to see medicine at its best because each patient not only presented with many ailments and complaints, but also with the simple need to be cared for by a professional that had the compassion to sit and tend to the spirit of the patient as well.

Each day, the clinic was filled with medical challenges. Our emergency physician, Dr. Patrick Fullerton, had a full makeshift ER set up each day, which was in critical demand. We had three true patient emergencies in which we offered what we could and then had to trust and release them to the local health care system. Our pediatrician, Dr. Rogerio Faillace, was also a key component of the clinic each day. The children were lined up daily, wrapping around the buildings in a line that seemed to have no end. Dr. Faillace felt a sense of powerlessness at times because he could simply not help all those who came each day. But with his spirit of compassion, along with medical students who longed to help in any way possible, he saw a majority of those who waited each day and still found the time to minister to the human side of his patients. This was demonstrated with the skit he and his patients put on the last day of clinic. We all stood and watched as Dr. Faillace and the children sang a



song for all of us to see. The learning for the students and the care for the people continued as Dr. Almos Trif worked as a family physician and pathologist to care for over 75 patients a day. He offered vital knowledge to our students and quality care to the local people.

The NSU students and volunteers were fantastic because each day they worked in a way that amazed me when I took time to stop and just observe this talented group I had the privilege to lead. They held babies, tended wounds, played with children, prayed with families, and possessed a smile that told the people we were there just to love them and tend to them. And each day as we left the clinics we had worked so hard to create, tears were shed as we left a true place of healing to us all.

Our final morning in the Dominican Republic was filled with reflection and a feeling of sadness as we said goodbye to all the people we had worked side by side with for the past seven days. Even though we came from different backgrounds, experiences, and cultures, that morning we had the beautiful blessing of oneness because we had all worked for the same goal—to help and share our compassion with the people of the Dominican Republic. That morning, we all were connecting in a way that transcended any cultural differences. We were no longer the Americans who had come to save the day; we simply were people who came to help, to share ourselves, and to love. In return, these people had served us and taught us. I looked around at the students and physicians alike and saw a beautiful thing. I saw understanding...I saw hope...I saw true servants—and I had never been so thankful to just be.

On April 4, a group of caring individuals from Nova Southeastern University set out to offer free medical care to the people of the Dominican Republic. On April 11, that group came back forever changed.

### Staff and Faculty Testimonials

#### **Nancy Roussel, Administrative Assistant**

*"At first glance, the villages of the Dominican Republic seemed filled with nothing more than poverty and hopelessness until I looked further. When I saw past the illness and poverty and talked to the people of the Dominican Republic is when I truly was able to see clearly. These people were full of happiness, hope, and an eagerness to give you the little they have. They reminded me the best things in life are yours if you make time for them, such as good conversation and laughter between friends—the very things I was lucky enough to experience with the Dominican people."*

#### **Rogério Faillace, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics**

*"Our daily routine consisted of waking up early, placing all*

*luggage containing donated medical supplies and medications in an open pickup truck, and driving to a different site each of the four days. One of the sites was actually under a big tent, where the students set up a makeshift clinic using cords and bed sheets as dividers into examining rooms. Benches served as examining tables. At times, around 400 patients in a single day waited outside under the sun to be seen by a doctor.*

*The majority of health issues we all saw were secondary to poor sanitation, such as intestinal parasites, diarrhea, and skin problems (tinea or scabies). Parents and even children were often aware of parasites and their symptoms. I examined a five-year-old who even explained to me the size of the roundworm she had passed in her stool and how it moved. A mother described to me the symptoms of intestinal amebiasis and affirmed that she was familiar with them because it had been three or four times that her two-year-old child had been treated for the same problem.*

*This was an unforgettable experience in every sense. To see how much effort was put forth by the organizers in collecting, sorting, and packing donated supplies, making the travel arrangements for the group, collecting and disbursing payments, and coordinating sleeping and eating accommodations for the team of volunteers with the locals was in itself impressive to say the least. The giving, volunteering, and unselfish spirit demonstrated by the students and physicians in every small and big act performed was a welcome refresher in such a self-centered society we live in. But most of all, it is the joy of having made new friends in the Dominican Republic—and the memory of the smiling faces and the appreciative words of gratitude of the local people we served that week—that will stay ingrained in me forever."*

### Nova Southeastern University Participants

Nicole Abell	Lindsey Bammann	Shauna Berry
Marina Guirguis Bishai	Jessica Bruggers	Jessica Davis
Lynette Davis	Prasanna Durairaj	Rogério Faillace, M.D.
Maria Farrell	Christopher Felton	Katherine Felton
April Foster	Tasha Frederick	Toni Hall
Daniel Haller	Jessica Harris	Austin Holmes
Chelsey Holmes	Lindsay Imhoff	Myles Jaynes
Shannon Keating	Adriana Martinez	Teresa McDill
Amanda McIntire	Jessica Munos	Lincoln Ropp
Nancy Roussel	Stacey Seastrom	Lacey Stark
Buddy Stokes II	Almos Trif, M.D., Ph.D.	Elizabeth Turner
Tina Vavro	David Villar	Nitin Wadhwa
Natalie Wessel	Rolla Zarifa	



# Ninth Annual Medical Odyssey to Jamaica Saves Lives, Educates Students

*By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications*



*Drs. David Perloff and Paula Anderson-Worts (right) confer about a case.*

**E**ach time a medical practitioner averts a potentially catastrophic patient outcome, the feelings of accomplishment and relief are almost palpable. Such was the case during the college's annual medical outreach expedition to the Jamaican regions of Kingston and St. Mary, which was held June 10-19 and featured a mix NSU Health Professions Division students and faculty members as well as outside health care workers and assorted community volunteers.

"We saw over 4,000 patients in nine days," said trip coordinator Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O., M.P.H., associate professor of family medicine/public health and program director of the Broward General Medical Center Family Medicine Residency. "It was a very interdisciplinary trip in that we had representation from dental, medicine, occupational therapy, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, and public health. What made the trip so successful this year is that we were able to implement more education, which has been our thrust over the past several years because we're always searching for ways to empower the patients we're treating. We're only in Jamaica once a year, so we want to truly educate them so they can take a more active role in their health care."

Due to the overwhelming popularity of this outreach effort, Dr. Anderson-Worts frequently finds herself fielding calls from all over the country—and the world—from individuals looking to participate in future Jamaica journeys. In addition, students and health care professionals from Florida International University, the University of Miami, and Georgia Tech served as integral members of the medical outreach team. "We have people who travel from California, Pennsylvania, and even Portugal to work with us," she stated. "I would have to say this was the best trip we've coordinated to date in that everything went off without a hitch."

As is the case each year, the patients presented with an assortment of ailments ranging from diabetes, hypertension, and musculoskeletal pain to a life-threatening aneurysm best described

by David Perloff, M.D., FACC, FACP, a South Florida cardiologist who has participated in several of the college's trips to Jamaica. "The most interesting cardiac case I had this year was an elderly gentleman who presented with abdominal pain," he explained. "His blood pressure was 220/135, and when he lay down, his abdomen was actually pulsating. I always bring an ultrasound machine along with us, but his aorta was so large that we couldn't fit it in the beam of the ultrasound. The aneurysm was actually dissecting (unraveling), so I gave him some medicine to control his blood pressure and immediately sent him to Kingston, which was three hours away by car, for emergency surgery."

Another perplexing case involved a woman who was referred to the medical team with a cardiac issue but ended up being sent to the hospital for a totally unrelated medical problem. "When Dr. Perloff and I were examining the patient, we noticed she had a large piece of gauze wrapped around her finger," Dr. Anderson-Worts said. "When we asked her about it, she said, 'Oh, it's nothing. I just cut my finger. It's doing fine.' We asked her to remove the bandage so we could see it, and when she did, there was a huge fungating mass indicating either a major infection or cancer. As a result, we referred her to the Kingston public hospital as well."

The maturation of the Jamaica medical outreach expedition over the past nine years is evidenced by the numerous enhancements that have been implemented, such as continuing medical education opportunities for the participants and new services and projects that benefit the indigent residents of Jamaica. "We provided supplies for two local health facilities, Anoto Bay Hospital and the Hope Institute, which is equivalent to a hospice facility here in the United States," Dr. Anderson-Worts explained. "It is the only facility of its kind in Kingston, so we provide various supplies to help the people who are terminally ill."

This year, an exciting new research study was established to help patients suffering from uncontrolled diabetes. Because so many of the individuals seen by the medical team are indigent and have limited access to health care services, Dr. Anderson-Worts and Angela Garcia, Pharm.D., along with several other cohorts, have solicited pharmaceutical companies to donate glucometers and test strips for use during the Jamaica trip. "Beyond providing health care screenings and services, our goal is to educate the people of Jamaica about preventive care," she said. "We're going to set up a pilot study where some diabetic patients receive the usual diabetic health education while others will be provided with diabetic education containing information related to nutrition and preventive care as well as a glucometer and a one-year supply of strips to check their sugar levels on a regular basis."

Before the study begins in earnest, the patients' hemoglobin A1c numbers will be checked. Then, when the medical team returns the following year, new A1c results will be reviewed to see if providing patients with glucometers and strips improves their diabetic control. The plan is to use the information obtained from

the study to help determine if obtaining glucometers and strips will be a major focus for future trips.

Planning has already begun for next year's 10th anniversary celebration in Jamaica, which will feature the inclusion of a health fair and other festivities to mark the milestone. For Dr. Anderson-Worts, who has played a pivotal role in this humanitarian endeavor since its inception, the experience has been deeply gratifying on a number of levels. "It's been exciting because I knew that international medical outreach was going to be a major part of my life," she explained. "It's especially heartwarming to see how many patients we're able to impact. In fact, I think I get more out of it than they do just by seeing how they appreciate what we do for them. When patients come back to thank us for positively impacting their lives, it's a wonderful feeling. To hear those kinds of statements is priceless."

## Student Testimonials

### Berry Pierre, OMS-III

*"Because I had just completed my second year of basic sciences, it was the first opportunity I had to actually play doctor before going into my clinical rotations. What impressed me the most was that I didn't just feel like a student physician; I felt like I was part of a health care team that worked together for a common goal. During my first two years at NSU, the medical, public health, optometry, dental, pharmacy, and OT/PT students were basically secluded in their own worlds. During this trip, however, when we were working together side-by-side, I couldn't help but gain a newfound respect for the other professions. It was important for me to see that, as a physician, I was just part of the cog on the wheel of health care management and to see just how medicine is truly practiced in the real world."*

### Julie Nguyen, NSU Pharmacy Student

*"On our second day in Kingston, we visited St. Catherine Prison."*



*At first, I was terrified to be in there. However, after the first 30 minutes, I realized how nice everybody was. I will never forget this one patient we saw who had congestive heart failure and hyperthyroidism. He was a skinny individual, but his extremities were enlarged due to the edema. Additionally, he had broken his arm awhile back and it had fallen out of place from the first time it had been fixed. The prison had run out of his medications months ago, and we barely had anything to treat his congestive heart failure and nothing for his thyroid. Someone pointed out that we didn't know what he was in for, and for all we knew, he could have been in prison for murder—and here we are feeling sorry for a murderer. I realized at that moment that compassion has no boundaries. Anybody can feel empathy for a righteous person, but it takes a much stronger person to care for the sinners. I hoped for a life-changing lesson to be learned on this trip, and I received it."*

## Health Care Practitioners

Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O.	Steve Andrews, M.D.	Ronald Bekic, D.O.
Brenda Belferman, Pharm.D.	Fern Bent, M.D.	Greg Black, O.D.
Maribeth Brucal, OTR/L	Errol Campbell, M.D.	Clarence Clarke, D.O.
Susan Cywiak, Pharm.D.	Ennio Deleon, D.D.S	German Fernandez, D.D.S.
Angela Garcia, Pharm.D.	Vivienne Heitlage, Pharm.D.	Noel Henry, O.D.
Nicole Kellier, M.P.H. (FIU)	Harry Lehrer, D.D.S.	John May, M.D.
Daniel Morgan, D.M.D.	Krishnamurti Munoz, D.O.	Sangeeta Parulekar, D.O.
Nishul Patel, D.D.S.	Naresh Pathak, M.D.	David Perloff, M.D.
Oswaldo Domingo Petra, M.D.	Luzan Phillpotts, D.O.	Nicole Quint, OTR/L
Sherrol Reynolds, O.D.	Gillian Sadhi, P.T.	Aaron Trujillo, Pharm.D.

## Students

### DENTAL

Jennifer Bossel	Theodore Chamberlain	Shahin Dabestani	Paulette Dennis (Tech)
Elizabeth Doody	Donald Duncan (Tech)	Sally Gaertner	Jenny Gandhi
Christopher Kaouk	Paul Kolodziej	Justin Lieneck	Hiran Master
Luis Missura	Benjamin Morgan	John Picard	

### MEDICINE

Michelle Brucal	Ruth Chery	Neetu Dhawan	Juliann Giese
Alexandra Grob	Andrew Harris	Jacadi Johnson (UM)	Mohsen Khan
Nonna Kozlenko	Brenton McCoy	Natasha Nanpatee	Shirali Patel
Berry Pierre	Rachel Pierre	Monique Samuel	

### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Brittany Belk	Melissa Miller
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### OPTOMETRY

Smith Blanc	Bupathi Dissanayake	Thao Ho	Steven Klein
Aria Murphy	Magdalena Saint-Louis	Somaeh Semati	
Denise Saunders	Chue-Mai Yang		

### PHARMACY

Thi Thuy Cai	Ralston Campbell	Jennifer Douma	Elizabeth Espinel
Janet Howard	Gustavo Llerena	Julie Nguyen	
Rena Patel	Tsehaye Zemenfes		

### PUBLIC HEALTH

Katia Chavez (FIU)	Ivette Lopez (FIU)	Yoko Young Sang (FIU)
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## Community Volunteers

Omolabake Ajayi (UM)	Conroy Anderson	Milicent Anderson	Nadia Anderson
Nashekia Bartley	Sharde Chambers (UM)	Priyanka Chhadva	
Natalie Clarke	Romario Clarke	Zoey Clarke	Godfrey Comrie
Don Daly	Jorge Luis Fera	Dorothy Goodison	Giselle Lie-Ten-Soeng (UM)
Lashona Linton	Lizaira Llerena	Nadege Macenat	Erica McClymont
Julie McClymont	Heather McClymont-Clarke	Sima Nwaesei	
Angelica Ortiz (UM)	Nick Patel (Georgia Tech)	Hina Pathak	
Pathak Neeti	Neeti Pathak	Sasha Sadhi	Peta-Gay Samuda
Tonia Tribble	Yolanda Ullette	Alexander Worts	



## NSU-COM Alumni Association Executive Committee

### Past Presidents

Pre 1995 - Holly Pomeranz, D.O. ('86)  
 1996 - Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)  
 1997 - Orlando Garcia, D.O. ('94)  
 1998 - Michael Gervasi, D.O. ('87)  
 1999 - Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. ('94)  
 2000 - John Geake, D.O. ('93)  
 2001 - Isidro Pujol, D.O. ('94)  
 2002 - Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)  
 2003 - Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)  
 2004 - Kenneth Johnson, D.O. ('91)  
 2005 - Steven Cimerberg, D.O. ('87)  
 2006 - Ronald Renuart, D.O. ('90)  
 2007 - Gregory James, D.O. ('88)  
 2008 - Robert Blackburn, D.O. ('86)

### Trustees at Large

Tyler Cymet, D.O. ('88)  
 Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. ('87)  
 Mayrene Hernandez, D.O. ('01)  
 Stephen MacDonald, D.O. ('90)  
 Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)  
 William Stager, D.O. ('89)

### 2009-2010 Officers

**Ronald Tolchin, D.O. ('89)**  
 President  
  
**Daniel Carney, D.O. ('95)**  
 President Elect  
  
**Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O. ('94)**  
 Vice President  
  
**Andrew Gross, D.O. ('93)**  
 Secretary  
  
**Annette Da Silva, D.O. ('96)**  
 Treasurer  
  
**Robert Blackburn, D.O. ('86)**  
 Immediate Past President  
  
**Howard L. Neer, D.O.**  
 Associate Dean, Alumni Affairs  
  
**Lynne Cawley, M.Sc.**  
 Director, Alumni Affairs

### Living Tribute Honorees

2002 - Mary Smith Allegro  
 2003 - Arthur Snyder, D.O.  
 2004 - Lori Dribin, Ph.D.  
 2005 - Edye Groseclose, Ph.D.  
 2006 - Howard Hada, Ph.D.  
 2008 - Cyril Blavo, D.O.  
 2009 - A. Alvin Greber, D.O.

### Celebration of Excellence Distinguished Alumni

1999 - Archie McLean, D.O. ('88)  
 2000 - James Turner, D.O. ('88)  
 2001 - Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)  
 2003 - Joel Rush, D.O. ('85)  
 2004 - Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)  
 2005 - Gregory James, D.O. ('88)  
 2006 - Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)  
 2007 - Ross Zafonte, D.O. ('85)  
 2008 - Majdi Ashchi, D.O. ('89)  
 2009 - Tyler Cymet, D.O. ('88)

## NSU-COM Shines at FSACOFP Convention

NSU-COM played a pivotal role at the 29th Annual Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians Convention, which was held July 29-August 2 in Orlando. In addition to setting up an exhibit booth and coordinating a well-attended alumni reception, a number of the college's alumni and faculty members presented lectures to the attendees. "We had alumni from the inaugural graduating class of 1985 to more recent alumni who graduated in 2006 in attendance at the reception with their families," said Lynne Cawley, M.Sc., director of alumni affairs. "It's really nice to see friendships develop from all the classes regardless of the year they graduated."

One of the convention's highlights was the installation of class of 1987 alumnus Steven Cimerberg, D.O., as the incoming FSACOFP president. In recognition of the alumni's various accomplishments, Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni—the college's esteemed dean—recited an impressive list of NSU-COM graduates that hold or have held local, state, and national positions of prominence in osteopathic organizations. "We're so very proud of our alumni," said Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP, associate dean of alumni affairs. "They contribute so much to the osteopathic profession."

In addition, to electing new officers and providing continuing medical education seminars for the attendees, the conference helped foster a sense of camaraderie and friendly competition with students from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) in Bradenton. One event involved the NSU-COM Alumni Association partnering with LECOM to sponsor a bus to take students from both colleges to nearby City Place for an evening of high-spirited fun. The other involved an entertaining competition called the Dean's Challenge Cup between NSU-COM and LECOM. Points were accrued for participation in various events such as workshops and meetings as well as sports activities involving a golf tournament, a sunrise fun-run/walk, a volleyball tournament, and a scavenger hunt. When the winner of the Dean's Challenge Cup was announced at the President's Gala Dinner/Dance, the worthy victor proved to be none other than NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine.

NSU-COM students who attended the convention were Hashem Azad, Amanda Bailey, Cameron Esmkhani, Chris Felton, Toni Hall, Chelsey Holmes, Ann Mazor, Margaret McCormack, Suzanne Micciantuano, Kristin Muller, Ergen Muso, Lincoln Ropp, Andrew Sakla, Danielle Selema, Jen Stark, Noelle Stewart, Elizabeth Turner, and Brandon Weeks.



## Alumni in the News

**Aaron Alper, D.O.** ('05) recently completed his emergency medicine residency training at Oakwood Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, and will be spending the next year working at Rotorua Hospital in Rotorua, New Zealand, before returning to South Florida.

**Joanna Drowos, D.O., M.P.H., M.B.A.** ('04), who serves as medical and administrative director of the Palm Beach County Health Department's Riviera Beach Health Center, was named interim program director of the NSU-COM/Preventive Medicine/Public Health Residency Program at the Palm Beach County Health Department.

**Michael Herman, D.O.** ('99), who currently is a third-year gastroenterology fellow at the University of South Alabama, was one of 15 gastrointestinal fellows nationwide to be honored with a fellow leadership award at the national meeting of the American College of Gastroenterology held in October in San Diego, California. Dr. Herman, who was the first D.O. to complete a hepatology/liver transplantation fellowship at Mayo Jacksonville in 2007, also authored the chapter on "Organ Transplantation" in the 2009 *Palliative Medicine Textbook*. In 2010, Dr. Herman plans to join a private practice in Jacksonville, Florida.

**Will Kirby, D.O., FOACD** ('00), who is working as a board-certified dermatologist in Beverly Hills, California, was featured in the August 10 issue of the *Los Angeles Times* in an article about the popularity of tattoo removal.

**Kelli Luttrell, D.O.** ('05) recently joined Eastern Shore Obstetrics and Gynecology in Salisbury, Maryland, and was granted active staff membership with clinical and admitting privileges in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Peninsula Regional Medical Center. Dr. Luttrell, who is board certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, completed both her internship and residency at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville.

**John C. McDonald, D.O., FACOI** ('93) was reelected to a three-year term on the board of trustees of the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association (TOMA). Dr. McDonald, who specializes in internal medicine at Good Shepherd Medical Center – Marshall, formally took office during the joint annual convention of TOMA and the Texas Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians held June 10-14 in Arlington. He was reelected by majority vote of his peers in the House of Delegates, which is the primary governing body of the association.

**Yesenia Medina, D.O.** ('07), a third-year family medicine resident in the NSU-COM/Palmetto General Hospital Family Medicine Residency, was appointed as the state resident representative to the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (FSACOF) Board of Trustees. In this role, she will serve as the resident representative board member for the 2009-10 academic year, work in conjunction with other board members to further the goals of the FSACOF, and help to engage residents and students throughout the state of Florida to become active in the society.

**Robyn Phillips-Madson, D.O., M.P.H.**, who graduated from NSU-COM's Master of Public Health Program in 2009, has been named dean of the Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine in Yakima, Washington.

**Brett Scotch, D.O.** ('99) recently established his own otolaryngology practice called ENT & Facial Plastic Surgery Specialists in Wesley Chapel, Florida. Prior to establishing his practice, he served as a major in the U.S. Air Force Medical Corps at MacDill Air Force Base Hospital. Before receiving his honorable discharge, he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal. Currently, Dr. Scotch serves as treasurer on the Hillsborough County Osteopathic Medical Society Board of Directors.

**Debra A. Smith D.O., M.I.H.M., M.B.A., FACPM, FACOPM, FAIHQ** ('93) recently published her book entitled *Healthcare Solved – Real Answers, No Politics*, which is targeted toward the citizen consumer, health care professional, and employer who asks, "What is health reform going to mean for me?" During her career, Dr. Smith has worked in every conceivable area of health care, including at hospitals and insurance companies.

**Paul Smith, D.O.** ('07) received first-place honors in the clinical poster competition at the Texas Academy of Family Physicians Annual Session and Scientific Assembly for his coauthored research poster entitled "A Case Report and Comparative Look at Acetaminophen Overdose in the U.S. Versus the U.K." In addition, he was appointed as the resident representative on the American Osteopathic Information Association Technical Advisory Bureau, named chief resident of the Texas Tech University-Amarillo Department of Family Medicine, and elected vice chair of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians Resident Physicians Section.

**Suzanne Smith, D.O.** ('87) has been selected by the Florida Department of Health to serve as one of the 15 members of the new statewide Health Information Management (HIM) Council. The HIM Council will provide strategic guidance and approval of clinical content to the Department of Health's Health Management System, which includes both the new electronic health record and current paper record. The council comprises a small group of practicing providers, directors, nursing health information managers, and staff from various county health departments.

**Ian D. Weir, D.O.** ('02) was appointed associate director of the Sleep Disorders Center and director of the Insomnia Center at Norwalk Hospital in Connecticut. He also was appointed associate program director for the Sleep Medicine Fellowship Program and as a teaching faculty member for the Norwalk Hospital Pulmonary Section. Dr. Weir is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in pulmonary medicine and critical care and is board eligible in sleep medicine.

**Paula Zozzaro-Smith D.O.** ('07) was appointed as the resident representative on the AOA Bureau of Scientific Affairs and Public Health. She also had her research entitled "Colonization of Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in Pregnant Women" approved by the institutional review board and was named as the Wyeth resident reporter for the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' 57th Annual Clinical Meeting held May 2-6 in Chicago, Illinois.

**IN MEMORIAM:** NSU-COM is sad to report the passing of 1996 alumnus **John E. Williams, Jr., D.O.**, who succumbed to lung cancer on June 25.



# Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

In the spring of 1999, NSU-COM launched an alumni-based fundraising effort to generate dollars that would be used to create an endowment fund to reduce future tuition costs for NSU-COM students and produce a funding pool that would be utilized for discretionary purposes as determined by the Alumni Association Executive Committee. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the following list of donors; however, if you notice an error or omission, please contact Lynne Cawley in the Office of Alumni Affairs at (954) 262-1029 to rectify the matter. For example, the college has received a number of donation cards with credit-card pledges where no name is listed. The Office of Alumni Affairs cannot process the credit-card donation without a name indicated, so if you have not received a letter of thanks from NSU-COM but know you have made a credit-card contribution, please contact Ms. Cawley at the aforementioned phone number.

## 2009 Donors

### Founder's Circle (\$25,000+)

Dr. Paul Winner  
*(to be used for neurological education and research)*

### NSU-COM Society (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Mr. Howard Spector  
*(David Spector Memorial Endowment Fund)*

### Chancellor's Council (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Drs. James ('88) and Sherry ('07) Turner

### Dean's Council (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)  
*(Leave a Legacy, Buy a Bench)*

### Clock Tower Society (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Dr. John Geake, Jr. ('93)

\*Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)

Dr. John H. Harker ('89)  
*(Leave a Legacy, Buy a Bench)*

### 500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. Bruce Rankin ('85)

Dr. Soling Li ('00)

### 250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)

Dr. Mariaelena Caraballo ('98)

Dr. Dana Chaykin Glover ('90)

Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)

Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)

Dr. Marc Kaprow ('01)

Dr. Clyde S. Meckstroth ('85)

\*Dr. Anjali Noble ('97)

### Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

Dr. Steven Beljic ('95)

Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)

Dr. Hazmer Cassim ('05)

\*Dr. Stan Cohen

Dr. Michael Gervasi ('87)

Mr. Martin Greco  
*(in memory of Dr. Daniel Finkelstein)*

\*Dr. And Mrs. Andrew Gross ('93)

\*Drs. Kenneth ('91) and Michelle Johnson

Dr. Mark Khorsandi ('99)

Dr. Lynita Mullins ('06)

\*Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)

\*Dr. Christopher D. Robert ('99)

Dr. David D. Sarkarati ('00)

\*Dr. Richard R. Thacker ('92)

Dr. Stephen A. Tramill ('88)

\*Dr. Steven Zucker

### Friends/Young Alumni (up to \$99)

Dr. Michael Baron ('88)

\*Dr. Candice C. Black Budner ('96)

Dr. Juanita M. Brown ('91)

Dr. Hector Delgado ('90)

Ms. Rosa DeLuca  
*(in memory of Dr. Daniel Finkelstein)*

\*Dr. Marti Echols

Dr. Julie Katz-Gerrish ('93)

Dr. Michele Lapayowker ('90)

Dr. Lily Limsuvanrot ('02)

Dr. Stuart Shalit ('90)

*\*in honor of 2009 Living Tribute Award  
recipient Dr. A. Alvin Greber*

## Cumulative List (1999-2009)

### Founder's Circle (\$25,000+)

David Kimmel Foundation/Mr.  
and Mrs. Stephen Mason/Harry  
Wendroff, CPA

Dr. George Linsey

Mr. Howard Spector

Dr. Paul Winner

Dr. Ross Zafonte ('85)

### Heritage Circle

Represents donors that have made a significant deferred gift via life insurance policies, insurances, or trusts.

*Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Grove* ('90)  
(Gift: \$500,000 life insurance policy)

*Dr. Albert Whitehead*  
(Gift: \$250,000 life insurance policy)

### NSU-COM Society (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Dr. John Geake, Jr. ('93)

Dr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Silvagni

Drs. James ('88) and Sherry ('07) Turner

### Chancellor's Council (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)

Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)

Dr. John N. Harker ('89)

Dr. Donald C. Howard ('85)

### Dean's Council (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)

Dr. Raymon Prieue ('86)



# Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

## Dean's Council (continued)

Drs. Kenneth ('91)/Michelle Johnson  
Dr. Stanley Zimmerman ('91)

## Clock Tower Society (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Dr. Daniel C. Carney ('95)  
Dr. Charles Chase ('89)  
Dr. Richard A. Cottrell ('90)  
Dr. Robert Crook ('88)  
Dr. Tyler Cymet ('88)  
Florida Osteopathic Medical Association  
Florida Society ACOFP  
Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)  
Dr. Leslie Greco ('87)  
Dr. And Mrs. Andrew Gross ('93)  
Dr. Jamal Haddad ('91)  
Dr. Armando L. Hassun, Jr. ('92)  
Dr. Robert Hasty ('00)  
Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)  
Dr. Gregory James ('88)  
Dr. Carlos Levy ('87)  
Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)  
Dr. Mitchell Pace ('87)  
Dr. Earle Pescatore ('89)  
Dr. Isidro Pujol ('94)  
Dr. Bruce Rankin ('85)  
Dr. Michael Ross ('88)  
Dr. Joel Rush ('85)  
Dr. Robert Sammartino ('90)  
Dr. and Mrs. Ronald B. Swanson ('96)  
Ms. Geraldine Terry  
Dr. Stacy Williams ('95)  
Dr. John Windsor ('89)

## 500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. David Adler ('92)  
Dr. Eric Alboucrek ('92)  
Drs. Seth and Mary Baker ('88)  
Dr. Michael Baron ('88)  
Dr. Steven Beljic ('95)  
Dr. James Beretta ('88)  
Dr. Roger Boyington ('94)  
Broward County Osteopathic  
Medical Association  
\*Dr. Douglas G. Bushell ('98)  
Dr. Colene Stout Calo ('95)  
Dr. Mariaelena Caraballo ('98)  
Dr. Steven Cimerberg ('87)  
Dr. Joseph Corcoran ('86)

Dr. Bruce David ('88)  
Dr. Tony Diaz ('92)  
Drs. Felix Fernandez/Ravi Mehan ('00)  
Dr. Judith Fitzgerald ('90)  
Dr. Michael Gervasi ('87)  
Dr. Brad Glick ('89)  
Dr. Sandy Goldman ('86)  
Dr. John Gordon ('92)  
Dr. Thomas Green ('98)  
Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)  
Dr. Jennifer Hayes ('86)  
Dr. Steven L. Hazelcorn ('98)  
Dr. James T. Howell  
Dr. Sharon Johnston ('93)  
Dr. Walter J. Kay  
Dr. Robert Klein ('91)  
Dr. Christopher P. Lampson ('85)  
Drs. Jared and Susan Lechtenstein ('01)  
Dr. Soling Li ('00)  
Dr. Henry Malczak ('90)  
Dr. Clyde S. Meckstroth ('85)  
Dr. Ronnie and Sherri Martin  
Dr. Julia O'Brien ('89)  
Dr. Tricia Percy ('95)  
Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)  
Dr. Ronald Renuart ('90)  
Dr. Patrick Sayavong ('92)  
Dr. Gregory Serfer ('97)  
Ms. Lorraine Snyder  
Dr. Theodore Spevack ('85)/Dr. Robyn  
Zelnick ('87)  
Dr. Sonia Talarico ('03)  
Drs. Ronald Tolchin ('89)/Susan Yahia ('91)  
Dr. Aye Unnoppet ('00)  
Dr. Mary Jo Villar ('94)  
Dr. Andrew Wakstein ('93)  
Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)

## 250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

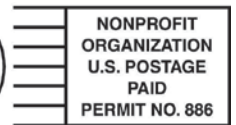
Ms. Mary Smith  
Dr. Bridget Bellinger ('86)  
Dr. Shaughn Bennett ('86)  
Dr. Camille Z. Bentley ('92)  
Drs. Alice ('94) and Cyril Blavo  
Dr. Edgar Bolton  
Dr. Janet Bradshaw ('92)  
Dr. Kenneth Bresky ('92)  
Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)  
Dr. Kenneth Chan ('92)  
Dr. Joan Crawford ('86)  
Dr. Gaston Dana ('92)

Dr. Alan David ('92)  
Dr. John DeCosmo ('87)  
Dr. Stephen Dyke ('91)  
Dr. Malcolm R. Freedman ('94)  
Dr. Julie Katz-Gerrish ('93)  
Dr. Lee L. Gibson ('85)  
Dr. Dana Chaykin Glover ('90)  
Dr. Diana Graves ('86)  
Dr. A. Alvin Greber  
Dr. Diane Haisten ('93)  
Dr. Nancy Harpold ('96)  
Dr. Jason D. Hatcher ('99)  
Dr. Eric Hegybeli ('95)  
Dr. Andrew Kahn ('91)  
Dr. Barry Karpel ('89)  
Dr. Cecylia Kelley ('02)  
Dr. and Mrs. Rubin Kesner ('89)  
Dr. Michael Krutchik ('88)  
Dr. Stephen MacDonald ('90)  
Dr. R. Jackeline Moljo ('95)  
Dr. and Mrs. Howard Neer  
Dr. Anjali Noble ('97)  
Dr. Merideth Norris ('00)  
NSU-COM Class of 1994  
Dr. Nelson Onaro ('92)  
Dr. William E. Osborn, III ('96)  
Dr. Anthony Ottaviani  
Dr. Edward Packer  
Dr. Raimundo Pastor ('93)  
Dr. Joseph D. Paulding ('89)  
Dr. Ramsey B. Pevsner ('03)  
Mr. John Potomski  
Dr. David Rabaja ('94)  
Dr. George Ramie ('96)  
Dr. David Ratcliffe ('92)  
Dr. Saul Rigau ('89)  
Dr. Hector Rodriguez ('90)  
Dr. Steven Sager ('90)  
Dr. David D. Sarkarati ('00)  
Dr. Lawrence Schwartz ('90)  
Dr. Sandi Scott-Holman ('93)  
Dr. John Yozen Shih ('91)  
Dr. William Sjoval II ('96)  
Dr. William H. Stager ('89)  
Dr. Joseph Stasio ('91)  
Dr. Donald and Hildy Teplitz ('85)  
Ms. Louise Todaro  
Dr. Peter A. Tomasello ('91)  
Dr. JoAnna VanVleet ('04)  
Dr. Ira Weiner  
Dr. Margaret Wilkinson  
Dr. Richard Wolonick ('91)





Health Professions Division  
College of Osteopathic Medicine  
3200 South University Drive  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33328-2018



# 2009-10 Calendar of Events

## **November 1-5, 2009**

### ***AOA Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar***

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center (Halls A and B) – New Orleans, Louisiana

Alumni Luncheon – November 2 in the Versailles Ballroom (1:00-2:30 p.m.)

Alumni Reception – November 2 at the National World War II Museum (6:30-9:30 p.m.)

*(RSVP required for alumni reception.)*

## **January 29-31, 2010**

### ***14th Annual Alumni Reunion and CME Program***

Renaissance Hotel in Plantation (social events) and NSU-HPD Campus (CME)

Welcome Reception on January 29

CME Seminars on January 30-31 in the Morris Auditorium

Dinner Banquet and Living Tribute Award Presentation on January 30

## **February 18-21, 2010**

### ***107th Annual FOMA Annual Convention***

Hyatt Regency Bonaventure – Weston, Florida

Alumni Reception – February 19, 2010 (Location TBA)